

JORDAN TIMES

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3rd education project expects to receive World Bank financing

By Lee S. Tesdell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Jordan is currently negotiating with the World Bank on final details of the third current Ministry of Education project to be funded by the bank.

To be included in this latest undertaking are an industrial school in Sahab, three comprehensive schools, a community college in Zarqa, two extensions to existing comprehensive schools and a computer for a "Management Information System" at the Ministry of Education, officials at the ministry told the Jordan Times today.

The first World Bank assisted project is now in operation. It includes the Marka Polytechnic, two comprehensive schools, one for boys and one for girls (both in Amman) and the Teacher Training Institute in Salt.

The second is now under construction and due for completion, "we hope in 1980," Projects Director Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, said. A second polytechnic under construction at Husn near Irbid is part of the scheme. Whereas the first poly-

technic at Marka trains its students in surveying and other engineering technologies, the new one will concentrate on textile technology, food processing technology and other industrial processes. Also under construction are three comprehensive schools, two in Zarqa, and one in Irbid, a teacher training centre at Aqaba, a hotel training centre in Amman and a rural development centre at Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley.

Ministry officials told us that comprehensive schools are designed to produce graduates who are "flexible to the local market." The target enrollment for each of the comprehensive schools in Jordan is 1,000 students each. Courses of study offered are scientific, literary, commercial and industrial.

World Bank procedure for project approval is based on a four-step checklist according to Ministry officials.

Firstly, a team comes to look at statistics in Jordan with an eye to what the country's needs are. Secondly, an identification mission selects sites in Jordan for individual projects. Thirdly, an

appraisal mission determines the financial aspects of the project. Lastly, final negotiations take place in Washington, D.C. at World Bank headquarters. A team made up of top officials carries out negotiations on Jordan's behalf.

Payment for the second World Bank project was arranged on a credit system whereby Jordan begins repaying the loan after ten years, and must complete payment in five years, according to Ministry officials. Payment for the third project has not yet been negotiated.

For both the first and second projects, three outside agencies are meant to provide training assistance: the British Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM), the International Labour Organisation and UNESCO. The organisations to fulfill this function for the third project has not yet been decided.

Dr. Arabiyat estimates that 28,000 students will sit for the twelfth year in both West and East Banks this year. Of these, 22,000 will take the exam in the East Bank. A passing rate of approximately 70 per cent is forecast for the exam this year.

Ministry officials estimate that there are about 12,500 places for post-twelfth year students in the East Bank for the coming year. This includes the two universities, teacher training colleges, the polytechnic institute in Marka and four private colleges. There are also three universities in the West Bank: Al Najah in Nablus, Birzeit in Birzeit and Bethlehem in Bethlehem. A fourth is being set up in Gaza.

A minimum of 5,500 students therefore will have no place open for them after they complete the twelfth year. Possibilities for them include studying abroad or by correspondence. Officials say that about 30,000 students now study by correspondence, mainly through programmes at Beirut universities, and another 50,000 study abroad. However, Dr. Arabiyat says that the 50,000 figure is not accurate. "I feel it is more," he said. There are about 600 students abroad on Ministry of Education scholarships alone.

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will be partly cloudy with rain in some parts of the country. Winds will be easterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba Gulf there will be dusty conditions, northerly fresh winds and calm seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	low	high
Aqaba	12	26
Deserts	17	28
Jordan Valley	13	28
	16	32

Peace treaties: A lucrative business

The following article, by former U.S. Senator James Abourezk, analyses the cost of the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, not only to the American taxpayer, but also to the cause of a durable peace in the Middle East and what he terms "the shaky moral status of the United States." The article is reprinted from the Saudi daily Arab News of March 31. It originally appeared in the Washington Post.

UPON ANNOUNCEMENT of the Israeli-Egyptian agreement, a friend of mine, a businessman, commented that he wished he could have a percentage commission on peace agreements in the Middle East.

I saw what he meant. He would have been able to retire, based on what the United States Treasury (on behalf of the American taxpayer) has paid out for "peace" since 1975. We gave Israel at least \$3.5 billion outright for the Sinai II agreement in 1975, in return for its relinquishment of some 5 miles of the Sinai's desert. And good old Henry Kissinger also signed an agreement binding the United States to provide Israel with its oil supply, should it ever subsequently be cut off. That was in return for giving Egypt back its oil fields.

This new treaty "breakthrough," as the press loves to call the agreement, will, as a one-shot deal, empty out some \$5 billion in additional dollars from the U.S. Treasury, over and above the amount already going to Israel and Egypt. Exclusive of the peace dividends we have previously paid to Israel, Americans have been sending about \$1.1 billion a year to that country. And Egypt will come in for \$1.5 billion over and above the economic aid already in their pipeline. One of the national TV networks has estimated the total cost of the agreement at \$19 billion over the next five years, all of it underwritten by the hapless American taxpayer.

One can always argue that peace at any price is cheaper than war. But, as one commentator has put it, this is a peace treaty without peace. It is Israel's way to buy time and have someone else pay for it. The agreement has again severely polarized the Middle East, while at the same time putting into severe imbalance the power structure of the entire area. In less formal language, the agreement ensures that Israel will never again have to negotiate an agreement with Syria or Jordan or the Palestinians. Without Egypt to provide population and muscle to the Arab bloc, Israel is now able, if it wants, to coerce an agreement, but it will never have to negotiate one.

The act of brokering a separate peace between Israel and Egypt was really obtainable without the intervention of the president of the United States. It is a peace treaty that over the years, Israel would have given anything to sign. It became one that Egypt gave up virtually everything to get. Thus, all of Carter's energy and prestige were expended on

the least important Middle East issue—Sinai-leaving the most important one—the Palestinian—for the parties to solve without a bargaining power Egypt's strength provides for the Arabs.

The proof of this lies in Prime Minister Begin's arrogant outburst before the Knesset, even before the treaty was signed, in which he has once again confirmed that Israel will never allow an independent Palestinian state. He has also laid out terms for permanent Israeli occupation of the West Bank: "Autonomy for the people, but for the West Bank." That is an ingenious way to justify illegal settlements in the occupied territories. Autonomy, as agreed upon by Car Sadat and Begin, means only that local Palestinian quislings, if any can be found, will be part of administrative council, a local government, for West Bank. Only one catch exists, however, decision taken by the new council must first be agreed upon by Israel, which has promised 60,000 troops in the West Bank to enforce its occupation.

Autonomy, then, is nothing more than advertising man's catchword, which has no meaning. It is a word that is used to hide the significance of this so-called peace treaty.

The big thing about this peace treaty is that it deliberately ignores the real parties in interest: the Palestinians, who are represented by the PLO Liberation Organisation. Israel is at war with the Palestinians because they want a return of a part of their lands in order to organize a state of their own. Absent that, there will be peace—only continued suffering by millions of homeless refugees, and an invitation to terrorism which will then be viciously denounced by who are really responsible for it.

Readers should take note of who are the winners and who are the losers in this game organized by President Carter. Clearly, C. electoral chances now are marginally better, making him a clear, if only a temporary, victor. Begin's government has come out ahead by getting Carter to alienate Egypt from the bloc—a feat that Israel could not do on its own over the last three decades. The additional American tax money that will go to Israel even more so. It is Carter's way of saying illegal aggression pays. Why shouldn't last Arab land whenever it can be taken to be rewarded each time it does?

The losers, not necessarily in order of importance, are: a comprehensive peace settlement; the Palestinian self-determination; the Palestinian most likely the Lebanese once again, the Arab World, the American taxpayer's shaky moral status of the United States; how long can we maintain our moral status continue to underwrite physical and abuse of Palestinians; territorial acquisition and continued aggression by Israel to its neighbours?

Let's not pretend

IT'S NO GOOD pretending that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is anything other than what it is: a partial solution to one aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict that has made it more difficult than ever to secure a comprehensive settlement which could endure the test of time—yet that is precisely the pretence which President Sadat wants us to engage in, judging by his marathon speech on Thursday.

It pains us to belabour the obvious, but given Mr. Sadat's insistence that Palestinian self-determination and the return of the holy city of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty have not been compromised by the deal he has struck, we must beg him not to insult our intelligence and bludgeon us over the head with his sophistry.

Must we remind Mr. Sadat that, at the beginning of his first term in office, he promised the Egyptian people that the "year of decision" (his code name for the liberation of Israeli-occupied territories) was at hand, only to find himself in danger of turning into a laughing stock when one year stretched into two? What was his solution? He simply repeated his pledge for the second year running, thus inventing an impossible twenty-four-month year. When the two years were up, his excuse was that Egyptian planes had gone out on a sortie to strike at Israeli targets, but had to turn back because "there was a fog over Sinai," as he put it at the time. As the lameness of the excuse grew, so did the credibility gap he was creating.

Finally he went to war against Israel in 1973: a war he claims to have won, and which did much to restore his credibility. After Sinai II, he got back the Suez Canal and its revenues, which Egypt lost in 1967. Encouraged by Sinai II, negotiated with the help of Kissinger, he decided to "wage peace" instead of war, hence his trip to Jerusalem. Now he has secured the return of Sinai, plus the revenues from the oil wells, plus American aid—at the expense of the other occupied Arab territories, Palestinian rights and Arab aid.

Each time he has delivered less than he promised. Instead of all the occupied Arab territories he got back Sinai. Instead of Palestinian self-determination, which he put forward as a condition for peace in his speech to the Knesset, he has settled for Begin's autonomy plan. But he wants Arab aid to be restored; so he is pretending that he has not hurt the cause of Palestinian self-determination or chances for the restoration of the West Bank and Gaza.

How can Mr. Sadat expect us to believe him when immediately following the signature of the peace treaty, Prime Minister Begin announced in his speech that the second happiest day in his life was when Israeli troops occupied Arab Jerusalem; this after Mr. Sadat had dropped any reference to the restoration of the holy city and self-determination for the Palestinians from his own speech?

Mr. Sadat will surely pardon us if we maintain that it is what the Egyptian president signs, not what he says, that matters. He has agreed to make peace with Israel, including full normalisation of relations and the exchange of ambassadors, regardless of whether the other Arabs get back the territories they lost in the 1967 war (under Egyptian command) and regardless of what happens to the Palestinians. The "autonomy" plan he is trying to foist on the Palestinians will only perpetuate Israeli occupation, not end it. He has effectively removed Egypt's weight from the Arab side of the scales in any forthcoming negotiations for peace.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'Y FRIDAY COMMENTS on the recent visit to Cairo by Israeli premier Menachem Begin and the start of a new era in relations between Egypt and Israel. The paper says that the relations which Begin is intent on establishing are "unnatural" and "illogical".

In their drive to create new Israeli-Egyptian ties both Sadat and Begin are ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people. With their dramatic moves they also help perpetuate the occupation by Israel of Arab lands and the captivity of our people, the paper adds.

Despite reports of the two sides' intentions to have groups of officials, religious leaders, and journalists, exchange visits and despite the opening of land, sea and air routes between Israel and Egypt, the paper believes that the Egyptian people will never forget the Palestine problem and the Palestinian people for whom Egypt has made so many sacrifices.

AL DUSTOUR draws a comparison between a statement by His Majesty King Hussein in an interview with Independent Television News two days ago and President Sadat's speech before the Egyptian People's council yesterday.

The King said in the interview that whatever the pressures on Jordan, it will not change its stand or relinquish its quest for a just and comprehensive peace. Jordan will not get involved in futile efforts that don't include guarantees of a complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands. The King's statement the paper says, is a declaration to the world that the separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty cannot solve the Middle East problem and reiterates his support of the Baghdad summit conference resolutions. The King clearly indicated Jordan's unchanging stand and re-emphasised the country's commitment to the Arab cause, the paper adds.

In contrast, President Sadat in his speech before the Egyptian People's Assembly yesterday, defended his separate treaty with Israel. It had been hoped, the paper continues, that Sadat would tackle other points and at least express Egypt's intention to pursue work for achieving a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, but instead Sadat had regrettably resorted to insults and bitter attacks on his opponents.

In reply "we must not involve ourselves in Sadat's altercations and return the same language" the paper says. Our efforts, should be directed to the real goal and we must struggle with confidence for the restoration of our rights and the liberation of our occupied land, the paper concludes.

NCC praises King's political efforts

AMMAN, April 6 (J.T.)—The National Consultative Council yesterday expressed its full support for the Jordanian policy with regard to political developments in the Arab and international spheres before and after the signing of the separate Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

The council also expressed pride in the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and members of his government to consolidate Arab strength and solidarity in the face of Zionist challenges and for their endeavours to build up indigenous Arab strength which guarantees for our nation the means needed to maintain steadfastness and continue the struggle for the restoration of legitimate Arab rights.

The council expressed its stand in a unanimous decision that was contained in statement sent to Prime Minister Mr. Mudar Badran and Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf.

In the statement the council also

expressed pride in the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein to make the ninth Arab summit conference and the Arab foreign ministers conference in Baghdad successful.

In addition the council voiced gratitude and appreciation for the efforts of Arab leaders, and appealed to them to further increase the solidarity they demonstrated during the Baghdad summit conference.

The council's statement also expressed pride in the steadfastness of the people in the occupied Arab territories and called on Arab states to extend more support and aid to them so that they can abort various Israeli plots that are aimed against their existence.

Furthermore, the council called on the Jordanian people to close ranks and safeguard their unity in order to foil all intrigues and conspiracies now aimed against the Arab nation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

French Film

The French Cultural Centre presents a film by Marcel Carne entitled "Therese Raquin" at 7:30 p.m. French version with Arabic subtitles.

School Bazaar

The Orthodox School presents a bazaar consisting of elementary section students' artwork and handicrafts, on displaying at Web-deh Tamari School in Shmeisani.

THE HOUSE OF LANGUAGES

Is opening new Arabic courses for beginners. They start on Saturday, April 14, 1979. Classes will be from 6 - 8 p.m.

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Jordan Travel Bureau Tel. 21220 Nicola Nakhle Sabanekh

Syria takes steps to prevent loss of old handicrafts and ethnic materials

Special to the Jordan Times

DAMASCUS—A national law to prevent the export of Syrian handicrafts and antiquities is now being strictly enforced, according to Dr. Afif Bahassi, Director of the Department of Museums and Antiquities.

Before the implementation of the new law, articles less than 200 years old could be exported from Syria. Alarmed at the high rate of disappearing ethnic materials, Syrian authorities now forbid the removal of any handicrafts and objects of art produced before 1949.

Customs officials now are checking luggage, packages and shipments of furniture leaving the country. Anything lacking an official stamp certifying that it is less than 30 years old will be confiscated.

Foremost on the list of items banned from exportation are:

1. Traditional Arab hand-carved and painted wooden ornaments including wall panels, frames, rafters and doors.
2. Carpets, particularly those made in Persia—these may not be Syrian, but they are regarded as part of the national heritage and are not to be scattered abroad.
3. Wooden furniture, especially

mother-of-pearl inlaid mosaic tables, chairs and chests made before 1949.

4. All ceramics over 30 years old. The extent to which the Syrian government is enforcing of the law is illustrated by the plight of a Frenchman who brought two Persian rugs with him when he came to Syria five years ago. It is now impossible for the Frenchman to remove the carpets from the country as they are regarded as part of the national heritage and no exceptions can be made by customs.

"It is O.K. for foreigners to purchase antiquities, but the buyer must keep in mind that he can enjoy them only while he is living in Syria and that the objects must remain in Syria when he departs," Dr. Bahassi said.

He urges all persons planning to leave the country to check with the Office of Antiquities at the Damascus National Museum where objects that are new will be stamped as items permitted to leave the country. In so far as customs officials are not qualified to determine the age of articles, it is best to avoid difficulties during customs inspection by having objects stamped by the museum before packing.

The Museums Department will compensate all foreigners for confiscated articles.

Pat-Pouri

Easter is right around the corner and if you want to give your youngsters a seasonal treat, try to take them to the Meridian Hotel where a traditional Easter spring display is in the main lobby. A cottage is home for live bunnies and chickens who are penned in by a garlanded picket fence. There also are live lambs, caged canaries and taped Easter music.

Anyone who's been complaining about the unseasonably warm weather should talk to the contingent of 147 Americans from the American community in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, who visited Damascus for three days this past week. They thought the climate was gloriously cool and refreshing.

The whirlwind tour of Syria was the brainchild of Skip Richardson, whose husband, Robert, is the principal of a school in Dhahran. Skip reports there are 40,000 Americans in Dhahran and she led her first Damascus tour for American expatriates living in Dhahran last October.

The groups always stay at the Meridian Hotel and the past week's excursion was the first of four tours to Syria slated for 1979. The Meridian staff attempts to plan something special for each tour and on this visit, the arriving group checked in late at night in the Discotheque where drinks and welcome music were on the house.

"We hope to take side trips to Palmyra, Busra and Hama in the future," Skip said, commenting that in addition to the highlights of Damascus, the group visited Malula and the 5th century A.D. monastery of Seydima.

Vivacious Skip was assisted by tour leaders, Jane Latshaw, whose husband is Aramco director of petroleum exploration in Dhahran; Korky Pentshier, whose husband is head of central supply for the Aramco Hospital; and Marsha Cathey, whose husband was watching camel races with King Khaled in the desert during her Damascus sojourn.

There was only a brief time to talk with the happy, weary travelers, among whom were Rose and Dr. Sam Batato, head surgeon of the Aramco Hospital, who were especially impressed by their visit to the Shrine of Zeinab.

A distinguished visitor to Syria who's actually a long-time former resident of Damascus is Dr. Andre Raymond, professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Provence, France.

Dr. Raymond is in Damascus for a three-fold purpose: to participate in the newly organized International Mission to Safeguard Old Damascus, which has its opening session Tuesday; to attend initial sessions of Aleppo Science Week at the Centre for Arabic Science, April 7-13, in Aleppo; and to continue research on his forthcoming academic tome dealing with capitals of the Ottoman Empire.

Dr. Raymond holds a warm spot in the hearts of most Syrian scholars for his active role as director of the Damascus French Institute from 1966 to 1975. A highlight of his career at the institute was the 1970-74 expedition he

directed at Meskene-Emar in the Euphrates Valley. The excavation was the first Islamic mission carried out within the framework of the international campaign to salvage archaeological materials threatened by inundation by Lake Assad upon completion of the Tabqa Dam.

The mission at Meskene recovered over 1,900 cuneiform tablets which ascertained the site was the 2nd millennium B.C. town of Emar mentioned in texts of Mari.

Dr. Raymond's forthcoming book is an extension of his definitive work on the Ottoman Empire in Cairo, "Artisans and Traders in Cairo in the 18th Century," published by the French Institute in 1974. His new work will deal with Aleppo, Algiers, Tunis, Cairo and Istanbul during the 16th-18th centuries.

Richard Hitchcock successfully launched a precedent at the British Cultural Centre Tuesday evening with the first in a series of films on British artists which are to be shown on an invitational basis to Syrians involved in the fine arts. "British Art Today" was the title of Tuesday's colour documentary depicting the mammoth exhibition of art produced in Britain from 1960 to 1974 at the Palazzo Reale of Milan.

It was an unseasonably balmy evening and moviegoers later gathered in the garden of the centre to discuss the avant garde works featured in the Milan exhibition.

Congratulating Mr. Hitchcock on his initial effort to introduce British art films to Syrian painters were Hassan Kamal, Director of the Modern Art Gallery of Damascus National Museum, and Tarek Sharif, art critic and Director of the Arab Cultural Centre.

Damascene artists participating in a rousing discussion of avant garde vs. traditional schools of art were Monshah Babbili, George Genoura and his painter wife, Salam, and sculptor Butros Rombeh.

The personable director of the centre discussed the next film in the series—a biography of the British painter, Joseph Mallard William Turner (1775-1856)—with Damascene artist Rida Hushos and his fiancée, Natasha Greco. Others glimpsed at the gathering were Nazir Na'ba, his artist wife, Shalabia Ibrahim, and Ghassan Nasri, acting director of Urnina Gallery.

mas-Scene

for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of April 7-13)

EXHIBITS

AY, April 7: An exhibition of French graphic art will be on for ten days at Al Shab Gallery opening with a 6 p.m. hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4:30 - 8 p.m. daily except

AY, April 7: A joint exhibition by Suweyda artist and his fiancée Leyla Mirewad will open with a 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre.

20 expressionist etchings and oil paintings will be Mr. Dallul, a 1976 graduate of the Fine Arts Damascus University. The current show will mark his in Damascus. One of his works is in the perian Exhibition in Beirut.

wad will be represented by 20 realistic pen and ink studied fine art in Beirut and is a student at the Fine y, Damascus University. Hours: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily

Y, April 10: More than 40 abstract oils by Damas-hammad Ghnom will go on view at Urnina Gal-loor of the Meridian Hotel. A 1977 graduate of the ademy of Damascus University, Mr. Ghnom's ter how abstract—implies an Arabic motif. A 6 p.m. open the two-week exhibition. Hours: 10 a.m. - 30 - 8 p.m. daily except Friday.

AY, April 12: An exhibition of graphic art and litho-ists of the German Democratic Republic will go on mainder of the month at the GDR Cultural Centre.

JING: "Tendencies of Contemporary Architecture mes an exhibition of black and white and colour French Cultural Centre. The exhibition is in con-Tuesday colloquium to be led by French urbanist, ise Choay, on the architectural blueprints for.

CONCERT

AY, April 12: An evening of classical music will he Luis Rego, pianist, and Maruja Rodriguez, vio- at the Shamlyeh Salon of the Damascus National programme will feature the works of Beethoven, and Corelli, including the latter's "Aria du Danza Spagna."

was born in Bilbao, studied piano in San Sebastian d composition at the Royal Conservatory of Mad-ceived special awards for the piano. He continued na and has received awards in international com- rope, Africa and the Americas.

guez was born in Toro, Spain and began violin age of seven in Salamanca; she finished her studies ce award from the Conservatory of Music in Mad- have been published as part of the orchestration ny Orchestra of Barcelona and she appears as an ational TV and Broadcasting Orchestra of Spain.

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMMES

JAY, April 11: "L'echare de sole rouge" titles an by narrated by Arsene Lupin at 6:30 p.m. at the al Centre (in French).

April 13: A documentary on the history of aviation at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in

LECTURES

April 8: The Union of Syrian Writers will present Director of the Arab Cultural Centre, speaking on America" at 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre (in

April 9: "Natural Sources in Syria" will be topic of Ibrahim at 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre. The aphic Association is sponsoring the talk by Ms. a geography teacher in Damascus high schools (in

April 10: "The Sense of the City" is the title of a using on the problems of urbanism at 6:30 p.m. at cultural Centre. The Department of Architecture of iversity is sponsoring the event which will be led by ise choay, a professor of the Institute of Urbanism, Paris. Mme. Choay is an architect who is particularly h the plans for urbanism in Damascus (in French).

April 10: "Prophylaxis" is the title of a discussion ys of Syria and the German Democratic Republic at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre. The on the occasion of World Health Day (in Arabic and

FILMS

WEDNESDAY, April 11: "The Child Between the Retarded and Gifted Levels" is the title of a talk by Adrian Subail, a professor at the University of Damascus, at 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

THURSDAY, April 12: "Aspects of the Arab Mystique" will be the topic of Dr. M. Roger Arnaldez of the Sorbonne at 6 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. Dr. Arnaldez is president of the French Committee of Arabic Scientific History (in French).

SATURDAY, April 7 and MONDAY, April 9: "Z", the inter-nationally acclaimed political thriller directed by Costa-Gavras starring Yves Montand and Irene Papas, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

SUNDAY, April 8: "The Judge of Zalamea" titles a film to be shown at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre at 6:30 p.m. (in German, Arabic sub-titles).

MONDAY, April 9: "Hamlet". Part I will be shown at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

TUESDAY, April 10: Two colour documentary films on Spain will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Spanish Cultural Centre. They are titled, "Castillos de Espana" (in French, Arabic sub-titles) and "Canarias, un Paraiso Surgido de las Aguas" (in English, Arabic and French sub-titles).

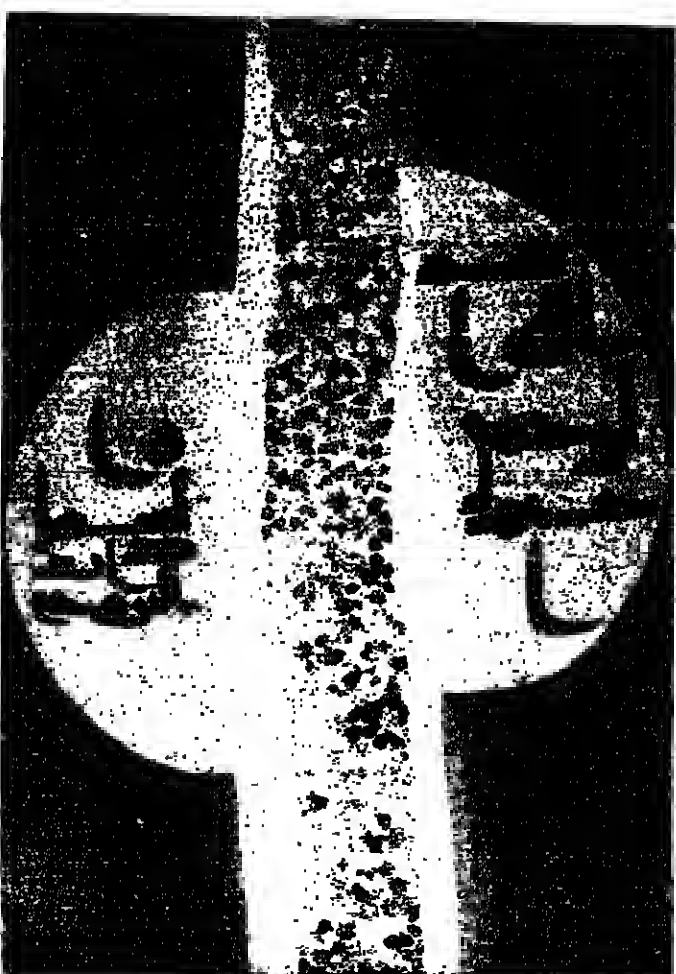
WEDNESDAY, April 11: "Hamlet". Part II will be shown at the Soviet Cultural Centre at 6 p.m. (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

THURSDAY, April 12: "La Kermess Heroique", a 1934 film directed by Jacques Feyder starring Francoise Rosayci and Louis Jouvet, will be shown at 8:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

FRIDAY, April 13: "Running Away", Part II will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian only).

ENTERTAINMENT

Chanteuse Olivia Palm sings nightly at the rooftop supper club of the Meridian Hotel. Orphaned at the age of 10, Ms. Palm studied music at a convent to the age of 20 when she became a model for the French couturier Carven for three years. She then went on to sing in Parisian cabarets including Don Camillo, Oree du Bois and Belle Epoque and to work as a singer with Serge Lama. She writes lyrics for songs composed by her pianist husband. In Damascus, she is backed on the guitar by Patrick Siniavine and the Ignazio Orchestra.



Two untitled Arabic-themed abstracts (above and below) by Mohammad Ghnom featured in a one-man show opening Tuesday at Urnina Gallery.

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DEAR SHAREHOLDERS,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Report of the Board of Directors of the Arab Bank Ltd. on the results of the activities of your institution for the year ended 31st. December 1978, together with the consolidated Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account. Figures pertaining to our sister institutions and affiliates have not been included in these financial statements.

From the statistics in the Report and the two accompanying financial statements, it will be observed that all figures for the year under review show noticeable rises over the 1977 figures, and as you know considerable increases were recorded during the last few years. Compared with 1977, Balance Sheet Total rose by 8.8%, Deposits by 17.3%, and Bills Discounted and Loans accounts by 14.3%. The volume of documentary letters of credit and collection bills executed by our branches for imports and exports rose by 20%, to 795 million Jordan Dinars. Guarantees issued at the request of clients and banks in favour of government departments in the various countries where your institution operates, as well as in other countries, totalled 337 million Jordan Dinars. Of these, guarantees in the amount of 87 million Jordan Dinars were issued at the request of banks.

The above mentioned figures signify the extent of the strong relations and esteemed position of your institution both in the Arab countries and in the world at large. They also lay emphasis on our increasing activities in the facilities extended to our customers for the import of such commodities as foodstuffs and industrial, construction and productive materials, as well as for the issuing of guarantees for the execution of projects in the Arab and other countries in which we have branches. This expansion has been achieved in spite of the slackening in business which had occurred late in 1977 and continued in 1978.

It pleases me, on this occasion, to mention that your institution participated during the year under review, in many international syndicated loans, denominated in foreign currencies. Our participations in such loans amounted to the equivalent of 63 million Jordan Dinars. A large percentage of these loans (53.5%) was for financing important projects in the Arab countries. Your institution ranked 235th among the top five hundred banks in the non-communist world.

Our Marka Branch, Amman (near the present international airport) commenced business on the 20th of February, 1978. Our Paris Branch, France, commenced business on 20th. October, 1978. It is hoped that this branch will contribute to stimulating trade between France and the Arab countries, in cooperation with our other branches and our sister institutions, and affiliates in U.K., Switzerland, France, U.S.A., Morocco, Nigeria and Germany. The number of Arab Bank branches is now fifty one, excluding our seven branches in the West Bank and Gaza temporarily closed since the Israeli aggression of 1967.

Throughout the year 1978 the Bank has maintained a high liquidity ratio which was 64.2%, at the end of the year excluding marketable securities. As a result of the increase of the business volume of our branches, both revenues and expenditures rose, but Net Profit exceeded that of the previous year. An adequate amount was allocated to the various Reserves in order to face all possible risks and contingencies. As stated in our last year's Annual Report an amount of JD 1,522,625 was allocated as Undivided Profit. To this account, JD 2,449,900 was added from the 1978 profits and the balance of Undivided Profit is now JD 3,972,525.

You will observe, from the attached Report, that your Board of Directors has decided to distribute dividends at the rate of JD 2.500 per share i.e. 25% of the par value, as compared with 22% in the previous year. We hope that your institution will continue to prosper and to participate in the development of the Arab world and to serve its clients.

As far as the Arab countries are concerned their real strength lies in their solidarity. This is their only shield against the perils encountered by them and the only path which will lead to the recovery of their land usurped by international Zionism. It is imperative on the Arabs to join forces and to resolve their differences and avoid disputes so that the unified struggle will continue for the best interest of the Arab nation.

It is regrettable to note that the situation in Lebanon has not yet come back to normal. We hope that reason will soon prevail so that all Lebanese citizens may cooperate in their endeavours to restore their country's stability and prosperity.

ABDUL MAJEED SHOMAN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARAB BANK LTD.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT & LOSS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st. 1978

	1978 JD	1977 JD
OPERATING INCOME		
INTEREST RECEIVED	51,078,089	36,875,260
COMMISSIONS	14,519,072	16,201,171
INCOME FROM EXCHANGE	3,301,078	5,095,669
OTHER INCOME	5,546,056	4,882,297
	<u>74,444,295</u>	<u>63,054,397</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES & PROVISIONS		
STAFF SALARIES & COMPENSATION, DEPRECIATION, INTEREST PAID, TAXES & OTHER EXPENSES	61,429,895	50,854,397
NET PROFIT FOR APPROPRIATION	13,014,400	12,200,000
DEDUCT :		
TRANSFER TO STATUTORY RESERVE	1,300,000	1,250,000
TRANSFER TO GENERAL RESERVE	3,250,000	3,750,000
TRANSFER TO VOLUNTARY RESERVE	3,250,000	3,250,000
UNDIVIDED PROFIT	<u>2,449,900</u>	<u>1,522,625</u>
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION		
	2,764,500	2,427,375
ALLOCATIONS PROPOSED :		
DIVIDENDS	2,750,000	2,420,000
DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION	<u>14,500</u>	<u>7,375</u>

AUDITOR'S
REPORT

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE ARAB BANK LTD.

We have examined the Combined Balance Sheet of the Arab Bank Ltd. (a Jordanian Public Shareholding Co.) as at December 31, 1978 and the related Combined Statement of Profit and Loss for the year then ended. We have obtained the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records kept at the Bank's Head Office and Branches and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances and to the extent allowed by the laws in force in the countries where the Bank is operating. We have previously examined and reported on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1977.

The Bank maintains proper books and records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Arab Bank Ltd. as at December 31, 1978 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with the Law and with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. We recommend that the General Assembly approve these financial statements and adopt the proposal of the Board of Directors to declare a dividend of JD 2.500 per share.

Amman, Jordan
January 23, 1979

SABA & CO.

ARAB BANK LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1978

ASSETS

	1978 JD	1977 JD
CASH IN HAND & AT BANKS	648,676,571	552,900,410
ITEMS IN TRANSIT (Between Branches)	—	1,315,822
BONDS (Government & Other)	53,988,858	33,759,918
INVESTMENTS (Including Subsidiaries)	7,430,613	6,428,935
BILLS DISCOUNTED	49,534,337	35,341,571
LOANS TO CUSTOMERS	296,107,050	267,025,860
BANK PREMISES (less depreciation)	5,554,429	4,254,402
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT (less depreciation)	1,167,326	970,493
OTHER ASSETS	<u>1,670,151</u>	<u>1,618,580</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	1,064,129,335	903,516,081
CUSTOMERS' LIABILITY ON		
GUARANTEES, CREDITS & ACCEPTANCES (per contra)	591,232,423	618,330,889
TOTAL	<u>1,655,361,758</u>	<u>1,521,946,970</u>

KHALID ABDUL HAMEED SHOMAN
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

LIABILITIES

	1978 JD	1977 JD
DEPOSITS & OTHER ACCOUNTS	1,010,601,538	861,416
ITEMS IN TRANSIT (Between Branches)	740,772	—
CAPITAL AUTHORIZED & FULLY PAID (JD 10 per share)	11,000,000	11,000
STATUTORY RESERVE	8,550,000	7,250
GENERAL RESERVE	17,000,000	13,750
VOLUNTARY RESERVE	9,500,000	6,250
UNDIVIDED PROFIT	3,972,525	1,522
NET PROFIT (for distribution)	2,764,500	2,427
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,064,129,335	903,516
GUARANTEES, CREDITS		
& ACCEPTANCES (per contra)	591,232,423	618,330
TOTAL	<u>1,655,361,758</u>	<u>1,521,946</u>

ABDUL MAJEED ABDUL HAMEED SHOMAN
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARAB BANK LTD.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ARAB BANK LTD

Shareholders,

I am pleased to report to you the good results of your institution's 1978 achieved in spite of the economic conditions in the Arab countries, uncertainties in the international markets and the changes which occurred in the world's

ARAB ECONOMY

Strengthening of economic activities which had started in the year of 1977 in the Arab countries, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula, continued during 1978. Among the reasons was the cut-back in expenditures policy adopted by the governments concerned in the inflation. This policy led to a decrease in the prices of commodities compared with the 1976 and 1977 levels.

In oil producing countries, following the decrease in their income, it is deemed necessary to revise their spending policies to make the expenditures more commensurate with their resources. Nevertheless, these countries continued to expand in the public services, essential industries, especially the petrochemical gas liquefaction, transport and communications, universities and ports.

I am pleased to point out that your institution has partially large number of Arab development projects whether by way of credit utilized by its clients or through participations in syndicated loans, as will be detailed later in this Report under the heading "Loans and Bills Discounted".

It is noteworthy that Arab oil producing countries are now emphasizing the diversification of their oil exports and to petrochemical and gas liquefaction industries so as to increase their revenues. The fertilizer industry, however, requires attention with a view to developing agriculture and overcoming the food crisis from which all Arab countries are suffering. At present, Arab countries import 63% of their food. This percentage is bound to increase along with the growth of population which is estimated at 3.3% per annum, average rate of current increase in agricultural production is 2% per annum.

Statistics of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development indicate that Arab wheat producing countries can increase output by 35% if they use chemical fertilizers in the proper amount. 4 kilograms per hectare, instead of the currently applied 3 kilograms. The above mentioned proper ratio would bring about a 235% increase in the rice production, noting that rice ranks 10th in the list of agricultural commodities imported by Arab countries.

Gas accompanying oil is abundantly available in the producing countries of Asia and Africa but most of this gas is flared. Not until recent years did the Arab governments, Bahrain and Algeria have already adopted this practice for utilization purposes. However the larger part of it is being flared and wasted in the Arab world, while countries, such as Venezuela, make better use of it.

Arab countries could utilize a portion of the wasted gas to produce molasses which may be used, at a low cost, in the industry. Bahrain and Algeria have already adopted this practice. Arab countries are embarking on schemes which aim at raising the volume of utilized gas from 23 percent of gas produced in the eighties.

Large scale development financing, the Arab Funds, extend loans and grants to needy Arab as well as Asian states. The number of those Funds and their activity increased considerably during the last few years. For example, there was only one Arab Fund (Arab Fund for Economic Development) with potential assets of U.S. \$ 2.5 billion. Now, the number of Arab Funds, which Arab oil producing countries contribute largely, has reached about U.S. \$ 18 billion and their resources of approximately U.S. \$ 25 billion, i.e. ten times as those in the early seventies. Total commitments reached about U.S. \$ 7 billion distributed among Arab and other countries in Africa and Asia. The Arab countries' commitments are about 68% (Jordan's share is about 14.3%, Morocco's 13.5%, Algeria's 12.8%, and Saudi Arabia's 12.1%). Aid granted during 1978 to developing countries oil producing countries constituted record percentages of national incomes. Qatar, for example, allocated 15% of its national income to aid; United Arab Emirates 12% and Saudi Arabia 10%. On the other hand the contributions of industrialized countries did not exceed 0.3% of their incomes.

It is worthy that most of the loans which the Funds granted were earmarked to well studied development projects while the past had been granted for general purposes, leaving the recipient countries to use them as they wished. It is also noticed that the aggressive increase in the loans directed to industry and commerce, there is still a great deal to be desired in the coordination and cooperation among the projects executed in the Arab countries with a view to having their products and capacities to be sufficient to cover Arab requirements surplus marketed abroad. Lack of adequate coordination

leads to chaotic production and unhealthy competition and, subsequently, to these projects being susceptible to losses and failure.

Monetary surpluses of the oil producing countries have been constantly declining. This is mainly due to the increase of funds allocated to the developing countries in our area, and the rise in the volume of imports and their continually rising costs resulting from depreciations in the value of the dollar (which still is the currency in which most oil revenues are paid). Moreover oil production decreased and prices almost remained at a standstill during the year under review. Those oil surpluses which stood at 68 billion U.S. dollars in 1974 dropped to 35 billion dollars in 1977 and are estimated at 18 billion dollars in 1978, i.e. less than the total of the surpluses of Japan, Germany and Switzerland. Some Arab oil producing countries are resorting to their reserves or to borrowing from international markets to face their needs.

Consequent on the high rate of inflation in the world and the subsequent rise in the prices of manufactured goods, together with the drop in the dollar exchange rates, the representatives of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided, in their meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 17th December, 1978, to raise oil prices gradually by an aggregate of 14.5% during 1979; 5% as from 1st January, then by smaller percentages at the beginning of April, July and October. This is equivalent to 10% average increase on a yearly basis.

Taking into account the fact that over 90% of Arab imports come from foreign countries, it is hoped that there will be a comprehensive planning of the economic and agricultural projects of the Arab countries aiming at increasing production and reducing imports. Arab countries should depend on local production, provided that the products are up to the standards required by Arab consumers. Moreover, Arab countries should expedite full utilization of their vast resources available at present, particularly petroleum, and to increase and diversify their industrial and agricultural projects before this rare opportunity disappears. By intensive and well conceived utilization, they should be able to maintain their economic and social standards after their natural wealth had been depleted, or following any loss in demand due to the emergence of substitutes.

THE WORLD ECONOMY

The industrialized countries in general continued to suffer from unemployment because of slow recovery from the acute recession they sustained in the 1974-1975 period. This has caused inadequate utilization of the economic potentialities and decline in the level of individual investment and in the average growth of world trade, which dropped from 9% in the sixties and early seventies, to about 5% in 1978. Under these circumstances and because of rising costs of imported goods, many countries are beginning to think of applying trade restrictive measures as well as further controls on imports. This, if applied, would hinder the revival of world trade.

The government of the U.S.A. has launched a bitter attack against Japan and West Germany for adopting policies leading to a reduction in domestic demand for imports while their exports to the world markets are steadily increasing. For many years the U.S.A. has been suffering from large deficits in both its trade balance and balance of payments, whereas Germany, Japan and Switzerland have been enjoying surpluses constantly. It is imperative that all countries should cooperate in equilibrating their balances of trade and of payments. Surplus countries should endeavour to raise their economic growth rates and domestic consumption so as to create more demand for imports. Deficit countries, on the other hand, should adopt policies aiming at curtailing public expenditures and curbing inflation. A meeting among the heads of states of those deficit countries was held in England, and another among the heads of the industrialized surplus countries was held in Bonn. The results of these meetings were not as positive as had been expected.

The U.S.A., in particular, has suffered from inflation as its rate went up from 5.8% in 1977 to 9% in 1978.

The table below shows economic indicators for different industrialized countries.

MAJOR CURRENCIES

In the presence of these high inflationary pressures, which dominated most industrialized countries, together with unstable economic conditions and continued speculation in the international money markets, exchange rates of major currencies have been subject to wide scale fluctuations, a matter which directly affects the developing countries. The U.S. dollar, in particular, suffered a severe setback during 1978. Its exchange rates against major currencies dropped from 2.10 Deutsche marks, 1.99 Swiss francs and 240 Japanese Yen at the beginning of 1978 to D.M. 2.08, SFr. 1.86 and ¥ 206 respectively in mid year. Then it started to take a steep downward trend. In the period from 1st September to 23rd October the U.S. dollar went down by 9.5% against the mark and 5% against the Yen. This led the President of the U.S.A. to announce anti-inflationary guidelines which called for voluntary restraints on the part of unions and companies so that rises in wages and prices would not go up beyond 7% and 8.5% respectively. Further, the American government may relax import restrictions, with a view to increasing competition and reducing prices, should price or wage rises in certain sectors go above the guidelines. These voluntary measures, did not, however, succeed in restoring the world's confidence in the dollar. Under continuing speculative pressures the

exchange rates of the dollar in the international foreign exchange markets went steadily down to record low figures such as D.M. 1.72 SFr. 1.47, and ¥ 175.50. Gold price went up to a peak record and reached over 245 U.S. \$ per ounce. Consequently, the President of the U.S.A. adopted a new anti-inflation package for the salvation of the dollar which was put into effect in November, 1978. The main proposals of the package are:

- Raising the discount rate by 1% to become 9.5%.
- Doubling the loans obtained, on a swap basis, by the Federal Reserve Bank from central banks in West Germany, Switzerland and Japan, in the currencies of these countries, from the equivalent of U.S. \$ 7.6 billion to U.S. \$ 15 billion.
- Drawing U.S. \$ 3 billion in mark and yen from the U.S. reserve in the International Monetary Fund in addition to selling the equivalent of U.S. \$ 2 billion, in SDRs, to obtain funds in Deutsche mark, Swiss franc and Japanese yen.
- Doubling gold sales to the extent of 1.5 million ounces monthly as from December, 1978.
- Increasing by 2%, the portion of savings deposits which commercial banks should hold in reserve, thus leading to the withdrawal of about U.S. \$ 3 billion from circulation.
- Issuing treasury bills, denominated in foreign currencies, up to the equivalent of U.S. \$ 10 billion.

These measures would provide the U.S.A. with the equivalent of U.S. \$ 30 billion in other major foreign currencies, to support the dollar. This was welcomed in all financial circles and has led to an immediate improvement in the dollar's performance in the international markets; its rates of exchange reached DM 1.93 and SFr. 1.74 at the beginning of December. Then they dropped again, following the rise in oil prices, to DM 1.84 and SFr. 1.64 on 19th December, 1978.

To bring about stability to exchange rates, countries suffering from deficits in their balances of payments should reduce their expenditure and curb inflation in cooperation with major industrialized countries. Moreover, measures on an international scale should be adopted so as to control the sizable amounts of hot money available in the international financial markets and to check speculation in those markets so that exchange rates of major currencies do not remain subject to sharp and sudden fluctuations. No doubt the industrialized countries are not alone in having their positions and products affected by the instability of exchange rates. The economic growth of the developing countries will also be adversely affected by such instability and the gap between them and the industrialized countries will be widened.

Throughout the year, interest rates in the European international money markets increased in general, especially on amounts deposited in pound sterling and U.S. dollar. The rates on Deutsche mark deposits remained, however, low. Swiss franc deposits attracted meagre or no interest and were at times subject to negative rates of interest.

In the meetings held in Berlin in July, 1978 of the member states in the European Economic Community (EEC) a new scheme, The European Monetary System, was worked out in order to create a stable monetary unit in Europe. This scheme envisages the return to par values with rates fixed among the countries concerned in such a way which does not allow fluctuations except within narrow limits. Around the middle of December, representatives of EEC member countries met in Brussels and agreed, except for Britain, to adopt this scheme as from the beginning of 1979 for a trial period of two years after which it would be established in final form. The reason for Britain's refraining from the application of this scheme was the fear that it might cause a rise in the rate of inflation and in the pressure on the pound sterling. Later differences arose between France and Germany on agricultural matters and the application of the scheme was postponed. Arab countries particularly the Gulf states, should emulate the EEC countries in working out among themselves an appropriate monetary system; the position and economic situation of the Arab Gulf States are more favourable for such a system than is the case with the EEC countries.

COMMENTS ON THE 1978 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Total Assets reached JD 1,064,129,335 at the end of 1978 — an increase of JD 160,513,254 (17.8%) over the previous year's figure of JD 903,616,081. Balance Sheet Total rose to JD 1,655,381,758 which exceeds the 1977 figure by JD 133,414,788. This Total represents the consolidated figures of our branches after conversion of foreign currencies into Jordan dinar at exchange rates prevailing at the end of 1978. These exchange rates differ from those applied in 1977 and, had the latter continued to be used, a larger total would have been shown.

Although we have a significant influence on some of our affiliates we have not included their figures in the consolidated statements.

SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

The Paid-up Capital still stands at the previous year's figure of JD 11,000,000 divided into 1,100,000 shares.

JD 7,800,000 was allocated from the year's Net Profit to the various Reserves shown in the Balance Sheet as follows:

- JD 1,300,000 to the Statutory Reserve; its balance now stands at JD 8,550,000.
- JD 3,250,000 to the General Reserve; its balance now stands at JD 17,000,000.
- JD 3,250,000 to the Voluntary Reserve; its balance now stands at JD 9,500,000.
- JD 2,449,900 as Undivided Profit; its balance now stands at JD 3,972,525.

In consideration of all these allocations the Shareholders' Equity now amounts to about JD 50 million (previous year: JD 40 million). The amount of JD 2,750,000 has been recommended by the Board as dividends to the Shareholders. Other details concerning these dividends will be given later under the heading «Allocation of Net Profit».

Adequate amounts have also been retained in order to further strengthen the financial structure of your institution and to enable it to meet contingencies.

DEPOSITS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

As you will see from the accompanying Balance Sheet, Deposits and Other Accounts increased from JD 881,416,081 in 1977 to JD 1,010,601,538 at the end of 1978 (an increase of JD 149,185,457 or 17.3%).

However this does not represent the actual extent of growth in Deposits since foreign currencies, mainly the U.S. dollar, form a high percentage of the deposits kept with our branches in London, Paris, the two offshore units in Manama (Bahrain) and Cairo and some other branches. As the exchange rates of the dollar dropped substantially by the end of the year in comparison with those at the end of 1977, our overall total of Deposits was affected. Hence the real increase in Deposits is larger than is shown in the Balance Sheet.

We hope that the confidence in your institution, manifested by the growth of Deposits, will continue unabated in the years to come.

CASH IN HAND AND AT BANK

The balance of this item rose to JD 648,679,571 — an increase of 17.3% over the year 1977. This represents a high liquidity ratio of 64.2%. If the participations and marketable bonds were added, the ratio would have risen to 70.3%.

LOANS AND BILLS DISCOUNTED

Our branches continued to expand their activities especially in the field of financing vital and important projects in the countries where they operate.

The total of Loans and Bills Discounted at the end of 1978 was JD 345,641,387, which represents an increase of JD 43,273,856 on the previous year's figure; compared with an increase of JD 21,204,906 for 1977 over the preceding year.

Loans include participations in international syndicated loans in the amount of about JD 63 million, of which about JD 40 million or 63.5%, was for projects in the Arab countries.

The Bank acted as manager of the international loan advanced to the Jordan Fertilizer Industry Co. Ltd. for financing their U.S. \$ 314 million venture for the production of fertilizers in Aqaba (Jordan) beginning from 1980. Your institution also subscribed in the U.S. \$ 150 million loan extended to the Lebanon Council for Development and Reconstruction for the implementation of vital projects in Lebanon.

In conjunction with other international banks, the Arab Bank participated in loans extended for the financing of a number of important projects in the Arab countries, such as the expansion of communications facilities and petroleum installations in Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.) as well as expansion work in the cement plant of Ras Al Khaimah (U.A.E.). Among the borrowing institutions of some of these international loans are: The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, ALIA - The Royal Jordanian Airlines, SONATRACH in Algeria and the Qatar Aluminium Co.

The Arab and Morgan Grenfell Finance Co. Ltd., which is 50% owned by the Arab Bank, was among the group of subscribers in these loans and has contributed to the liaison and research effort intended to provide the necessary interface between the lenders and the borrowers.

The following are some important projects undertaken by big entrepreneurs specialized in structural engineering to whom lines of credit have been given by the branches of the Arab Bank:

- 1 — In Jordan: Expansion of the port of Aqaba, expansion of Queen Alia International Airport as well as development of highways, hotels and buildings.
- 2 — In Saudi Arabia: Expansion of the ports of Jeddah and Jubail, construction of new hospitals, educational institutions, government buildings and private buildings as well as installation work in the Jeddah desalination plant.
- 3 — In Qatar: Petrochemicals production plant, aluminium production plant as well as development of the housing sector.
- 4 — In Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.): Gas liquefaction plant, desalination plant, construction of a sports city as well as development of seaports, airports and the building sector.
- 5 — In Dubai, Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah (U.A.E.): Cement production, aluminium production as well as development of ports, hotels, hospitals and buildings.
- 6 — In Oman: Production of asbestos pipes, production of polythene pipes as well as development of highways and buildings.
- 7 — In Egypt: Textile factory and sugar factory as well as land reclamation schemes.
- 8 — In Tunisia: Development of petroleum production, tourism and the industrial sector.
- 9 — In Morocco: Development of phosphates production, tourism and the industrial sector.



ARAB BANK LIMITED

ESTABLISHED IN 1930

ANNUAL REPORT

1978



10 — In Algeria, Development of petroleum production, tourism and the industrial sector

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS, GUARANTEES AND ACCEPTANCES

The balance of this item totalled JD 591,222,433 as compared with JD 618,330,839 in 1977

The following table shows the volume of import and export transactions executed by the branches of the bank and the guarantees issued by them at the request of customers and banks during each of the last six years:

(JD Million)						
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Imports & Exports	150	227	561	726	654	795
Guarantees	49	65	124	562	293	327

The 1978 balance of this item is composed of JD 201,664,220 for outstanding documentary credits, JD 378,319,231 for guarantees still in effect, for which JD 105,143,453 was issued at the request of other local and foreign banks, and JD 14,248,512 for acceptances covering import transactions for customers' accounts.

EARNINGS AND EXPENSES

The total of Earnings increased by JD 11,369,895 (18.1%) from JD 63,054,397 in 1977 to JD 74,444,295 in 1978. This is attributed to the expansion of the bank's business in the areas where our branches operate.

Expenses including interest paid, depreciations, provisions, taxes and other expenses, as well as salaries and fringe benefits including the provident fund, the medical expenses and the staff indemnity on termination of service, were also up by JD 10,575,488, reaching JD 61,429,895 at year's end. After deduction of all those expenses, a Net Profit of JD 13,014,400 was left over for appropriation.

ALLOCATION OF NET PROFIT

Your Board recommends that the Net Profit be appropriated as follows:

- JD 7,800,000 to the various Reserves shown in the Balance Sheet
- JD 2,449,900 as Undivided Profit.
- JD 2,750,000 as dividends, at the rate of JD 2,500 per share. These dividends will be paid to the Shareholders as from 30th April, 1979, and
- JD 14,500 as remuneration to the Members of the Board according to their attendance at the Board's meetings held during the year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the Annual General Meeting held on 31st March 1978 a new Board of Directors was elected for a tenure of four years. The new Board is composed of: Abdul Majeed Abdul Hameed Shoman (Chairman), Khaled Abdul Hameed Shoman (Deputy Chairman), Muhammad Yassin Tahir, Abdul Wahab Sheikh (Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Saudi Arabia), Mahmoud M. Beidoun, Bassel Khalid Al-Zahr, George Sleiman Tannous, Fadiou Kamel Jaber, Munir R. Masri and Abdel Hameed A. Shoman (Members).

The Board also appointed Mr. Ishak Qattanah as Secretary of the Board of Directors. Mr. Qattanah will also continue to serve in his original capacity as a manager in our Head Office.

We mention with regret the loss of the Board Member, Muhammad Yassin Tahir, who died in London in August, 1978. Mr. Tahir will be remembered for his long service as a Board Member, from 1949 until 1978, and we extend our deepest condolences to his family.

NEW BRANCHES

On 20th February 1978 our Works branch in Amman (Jordan) was opened for business. Our Paris branch, located in the French capital's most important business centre, the Champs-Élysées, commenced business on 20th October, 1978. We hope that this branch will play an effective role in the promotion of Arab-French trade relations. We wish the new branches success and progress.

THE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recommends to the Shareholders the following:

- 1 — Review of the minutes of the 48th meeting of the General Assembly.
- 2 — Approval of the contents of the Board's Annual Report and discharge of the Members of the Board of any liability in connection with the year 1978.
- 3 — Approval of the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1978.
- 4 — Approval of the Auditors' Report for the year 1978.
- 5 — Approval of the Directors' recommendation to distribute dividends at JD 2,500 per share (25% of the share par value) for the year 1978.
- 6 — Election of Auditors for the year 1979 and the fixing of fees.

In conclusion the Board of Directors thanks the executive employees of the Head Office and branches for their sincere and devoted service during 1978. The Board also wishes to thank all clients and correspondents of the Arab Bank Ltd. in all parts of the world for their continued confidence and support.

ARAB BANK LIMITED

SISTER INSTITUTIONS, SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES

INSTITUTION	TELEPHONE	TELEX	CABLE ADDRESS
ARAB BANK (OVERSEAS) LIMITED ZURICH, SWITZERLAND GENEVA, SWITZERLAND	522 79 54 95 6 54 57 5		ARABIBANK ARABIBANK
ARAB BANK MAROC CASABLANCA, P.O.B. 441 RABAT, P.O.B. 441	26 21 1 26 21 4	26 21 1 310 32	ARABMAROC ARABMAROC
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A facelift for the ambassador?

By Kevin Rafferty

Mr. B.M. Birla, head of Hindustan Motors, India's biggest car maker, is looking at British and West German technology as part of his plan to remodel and upgrade the Ambassador, the country's best-selling car.

He wants to produce a new Indian car for the 1980s, but whether he will be allowed to do it will depend on a variety of political and personal factors which are symptomatic of India's massive industrial problems.

He said in an interview at his offices in Calcutta that the timing "depends on the government. We have not yet made a formal application to buy foreign technology, as we want to see what the government's attitude is."

It is clear from political sources that the Janata Gov-

ernment is facing pressures to nationalise Hindustan Motors. The French have already jumped in, as if they half expect nationalisation, by offering help with the Indian motor industry as part of the official aid programme.

The demand for nationalisation of Hindustan Motors comes from a variety of sources. Some are opposed to the size and the strength of the Birla family empire.

Companies with which the family is associated read like a list of what's what in Indian industry. They are involved in everything from steel to jam and textiles to tea.

The combined efforts of the group would take the Birlas into the Fortune top 500 of non-US companies, and probably into the top 200. Given the Janata's dislike of big business, the Birlas are a natural target.

Mr. B.M. Birla denies that

there is in fact a "group" — they are individual companies, led by individuals. It is a denial which is not given much credence by the critics. The Birlas are a close family, meeting frequently. All the time they and intimate friends refer to themselves by their initials, which are a sort of pass-key to insiders and a maze to baffled outsiders.

The two senior members of the family are B.M., and his elder brother, G.D. Birla, who is virtually retired. B.M. has one son, G.P. G.D. has three sons working — L.N., K.K. and B.K. A dead brother, R.D., has a son, M.P. And there are three sons active from a new generation — S.K., son of L.N., A.B., son of B.K., and C.K., son of G.P.

A second source of opposition is the fact that the Birlas were close allies of Mrs. Gandhi during the emergency. K.K. Birla was instrumental in

The design of India's best-selling car, the Ambassador, is based on the Morris Oxford of the 1950s. The manufacturers are thinking about upgrading and remodelling the car, but they appear to be in no hurry to make the new investment that entails.

removing Mr. George Varghese from his independent post as editor of the Hindustan Times, Delhi's largest selling newspaper, in favour of someone who would be more sympathetic to Mrs. Gandhi's policies.

As an example of the closeness of the Birlas to Mrs. Gandhi, the group published a book in 1978, which includes a paean of praise to her.

"It has happened in India before. In every age a new

leader comes forward to lead the nation to exultant (sic) heights of glory. Born of this great tradition Indira Gandhi has taken India beyond the Atomic Age to the Space Age... Only the creative leadership of our prime minister could achieve this miracle in the short span of 30 years of India's independence."

B.M. Birla does not think that the Janata government will cause trouble about the family's past associations — perhaps because he has worked hard,

but diplomatically, to improve relations with it. "Mr. Desai is not biased or vindictive in any way," he said.

Another reason for opposition to the car-making company is the profits made producing the Ambassador. The car is based on the Morris Oxford design of the 1950s. The critics say that the design is long outmoded and the car is obviously old-fashioned. The technology was long ago paid for, so each new car is clear profit.

Mr. Birla defends the performance of his company: "If you look on the streets, you will see that 90 per cent of the cars we have made are still going, which says a lot for the durability of the car. Which other car in which other country has that record?"

He also adds that whichever foreign technology is bought, it

will have to be adapted to suit Indian conditions and roads — otherwise the cars will not last, given the bumping and shaking they get."

He is critical of the role played by government restrictions and taxation in inhibiting the growth of the Indian economy and its car industry. He says that there are hundreds of central government laws and

thousands of other laws, tens of thousands of clauses in laws, and hundreds of thousands of rules and regulations attached to the laws. Unless you consult all the rules and regulations you are not carrying out the law.

"It is possible that some of them may be necessary, as no country can be governed ultimately without law, but having so many of them does nothing to get business moving," he says. "It may take any number

one to ten years to

mission to build a

In the car industry has pointed out that India made the same cars as Japan, 30 each year and India which the Birlas accounts for 10 million cars, with the 51's

General Motors research and development. Mr. Birla says that, however, the Ambassador is not a car of the 1950s.

It is a car of the 1970s. It is a car of the 1970s. It is a car of the 1970s.

ARAB BANK LIMITED

Skateboarding: The hottest craze in town

By Ron Cathell
as to the Jordan Times

N. April 3 — Skateboard-latest craze in town, is like brushfire. Spring and boys and girls, 11 to 14 years of age, are on their feet and downing streets and sidewalks on their skateboards. The kids have quickly discovered this "city of seven hills" suited to this sport, which is said to have originated 10 years ago in the coastal southern California as an alternative to surfing.

The surfer, the skateboarder, a thrill from the freedom of the speed, the gratification of being in top form, and of a manoeuvre in true one needs for an afternoon is a bit of physical exertion, daring and imagination, and, of course, fun.

Toy and sport shops in Amman, ranging from JD 6 to JD 8 depending on brand (although there is only a tiny variation in the quality of different brands).

Jabal Hussein area, five reports that they each have 20 skateboards during the month of February. Sales over 50 per cent in the shopkeepers say they expect this spring and to witness an upsurge in the sale of skateboards which, along with the new craze, are the hottest selling items in the city.

With this new "in" sport, the new craze brings with it the appropriate dangers. All over town, especially in the middle of Jabal Hussein, Jabal Shmeisani and Jabal Hussein, where this latest craze is rampant, kids are seen proudly wearing their athletic gear, with a mahlazon across their chest.

But, the new craze brings with it the appropriate dangers. All over town, especially in the middle of Jabal Hussein, Jabal Shmeisani and Jabal Hussein, where this latest craze is rampant, kids are seen proudly wearing their athletic gear, with a mahlazon across their chest.

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Everybody enjoys a good race, and these skateboarders are no exception. The leader is wearing a special skateboarding jersey fitted with shoulder and elbow pads. There has never been a serious skateboarding injury at the Haya Centre.

buildings. The smooth-surfaced cement park should be ready for the streaking skateboarders within two weeks. "I would love to get every kid to be a member here and not to skate in the streets," Mr. Sawalha said.

The decision to go ahead with the cement playground was also prompted by the heavy traffic of sidewalk surfers at the Haya Centre. Over the past several months the growing number of rip-roaring skateboarders blazing through the inner courtyard of the arts buildings has made the area a red-alert zone. Anyone who has tried to walk through the courtyard on a Sunday afternoon knows how treacherous the short journey can be, as four-wheeled athletes come flying out of nowhere, criss-crossing back and forth and swerving around big-tiled pillars.

Because of the unsafe condition—though no major injuries have been reported except for the usual scrapes and bruises—aluminium fencing was recently put up to confine the skateboarders to a narrow area along the top of the steps that leads into the courtyard. Even though this greatly limits their movement, it's still one of the best places in town to ride, the kids say, because the surface is so smooth. The only other alternative is to skateboard in the streets near their homes or their neighbourhood sidewalks, if they are fortunate to live on streets with paved sidewalks.

They know the danger involved, but to them the thrill of riding is worth the risk. This danger has been compounded in the last month in Shmeisani and Jabal Hussein by the addition of dividers in the centre of main thoroughfares, causing traffic to funnel through narrow residential streets to get to intersections where cars can turn onto the thoroughfares.

The skateboarders have been watching the construction of the skateboard park with high enthusiasm. "The kids are going absolutely mad waiting for it," Mr. Sawalha said. They know the park will have a terrific feature, "the dip." In the middle of the 25 metre-wide circular park will be a bowl about one metre deep, and 13 metres from rim to rim, with ramps leading into it and hanked sides that will enable the board riders to perform graceful leaning turns and tricky manoeuvres. Zipping down a ramp into "the dip" a rider can pick up speed and shoot up a hanked wall, centrifugal force pressing him to the surface as he turns at the top to come zooming down.

Besides the stringent safety rules, after the skateboarders have developed their own traffic pattern, certain codes of behaviour will be adopted by the club specially tailored to fit the conduct of the kids. The idea is to keep the activity orderly through discipline. "You've got to have discipline. You've got to have regulations," Mr. Sawalha said. "You can only teach kids responsibility through discipline. But we don't believe in very strict discipline. We like to be relaxed and have fun when working with kids."

One of the most incredible things about the park is the speed with which it is being built. The Royal Army Corp of Engineers is responsible for that. Using army muscle and heavy equipment, the corp has worked diligently to finish the project within a few short months.

Since the Haya Centre is a charitable organisation, it can't afford to hire a big construction company. Mr. Sawalha usually contacts his philanthropist friends when he needs help. He thought the idea for a skateboard park was so good, and he believed in it so much, that he presented the plan to His Majesty King Hussein. King Hussein heartily approved of the idea and asked the army to help out. Mr. Sawalha explained his idea to his friends in the army and they went to work immediately. All the major work is now completed. The park only needs a fine smooth coating of cement and time for it to dry, and the kids will be in business.

Once the club and park are in full operation and all design and regulation details are ironed out,

The complete design of the park was the work of Mr. Sawalha himself. He got the general idea from a skateboard park which he saw in a scene from a British movie. In the U.K., Western Europe and the United States, the sport has reached the professional level and is also commonplace on sidewalks and public parks. Many countries and states have restricted the sport, for safety reasons, to specially constructed skateboard parks, like the one being built at the Haya Centre.

Although the design of the Haya Arts Centre skateboarding park has been formulated, modifications may be made after the kids develop a pattern of use and it becomes evident that adjustments would be beneficial. "The kids will devise their own way of using it, no matter how smart you think you are in designing it," Mr. Sawalha said. "After a while, we'll see that we should add a safety railing here, or remove one from there. They'll set their own traffic pattern. I remember when they started riding beside the steps; one day a boy fell down the steps—only he didn't really fall. He ended up riding his board down the steps, and it caught on and all the kids started trying it."

To have the privilege of using the park, a youngster must join a special skateboarding club and be a member of the Haya Arts Centre. The age qualification to join the club will be the same as for the Centre, six to 14 years old. Of course, girls will also be able to use the park. A nominal annual club membership fee of JD 1 will be charged.

Once a member, each youngster will be bound to abide by the rules of the park. Safety regulations will be strictly enforced by an adult supervisor. Every skateboarder will be required to wear a helmet, soft soled shoes, elbow and knee pads and gloves. All the safety equipment will have to be provided by the skateboarder. Sometime in the future, the Haya Centre may have equipment available for a small fee.

The safety rules will probably be most popular among the parents. Skateboarders in the streets or on walkways seldom wear helmets or pads, even though shopkeepers claim they sell about five suits of safety armour for every 20 skateboards sold. A safety helmet made of plastic and full pads cost about JD 6. Skateboarders at the park will have to wear safety equipment, they either play safe or they don't play at all. The parents "will have to bear the expense of the safety equipment," Mr. Sawalha said. "But this is no expense really, compared to the expense of a broken bone or injury that may leave their child deformed."

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One of the favourite places to skateboard is Maxim Circle where this board rider practices a few stunts amid pedestrians. They usually give the skateboarders plenty of room.



At Haya Arts centre, pedestrian and skateboarder collisions are not a rare occasion as the boy on the left surprisingly discovers.

Mr. Sawalha wants to invite an expert skateboarder from Europe or the United States to put on exhibitions for Amman's junior skateboarders enthusiasts and teach the youngsters a few fancy techniques. Until then, he hopes it may be possible to get some films on skateboarding in cooperation with foreign cultural centres here. In addition to the skateboard park, the Haya Centre is building a children's traffic circle on the

other side of the art buildings. Kids will propel their vehicles with leg power around a course fully marked with traffic signs to learn all the rules of driving. The traffic circle should be finished within two months, possibly within one. "A year ago, these projects were a dream in my mind," Mr. Sawalha said. "And they've happened. Dreams have a way of coming true if you work for them."

Shown below is an example of skateboarding rules and guidelines used by a skateboarding club in the United States. The Haya Arts Centre skateboarding club will adopt similar guidelines in its code of conduct.

SAFETY CHECK

Check out all of your hardware each time you ride. Make certain the locknuts are tightened, the wheels rotate freely, the board has no splits, the trucks are not cracked and are attached firmly to the board.

PROTECT YOURSELF BY WEARING SAFETY GEAR

1. Always wear tennis type shoes!
2. The four basic pieces of safety gear are helmet, gloves, knee and elbow pads.
3. For added protection you should have wrist braces and pelvis protectors.

WHERE TO RIDE

1. The safest place to ride is in a skatepark.
2. In cities where sidewalk skating is still permitted, be careful of pedestrians. Stay alert at driveways, alleys and cross streets. Obey all traffic signals, signs and regulations.
3. Use your good judgement when looking for a place to ride.
4. Don't ride on your own. Always have someone there to help if you need it.

PHYSICAL CONDITION

1. Don't ride when you are tired. Your mind is saying "go for it!" but your body may not respond.
2. Warm up before you skate. Do some stretching exercises, knee bends and side bends.

GETTING STARTED

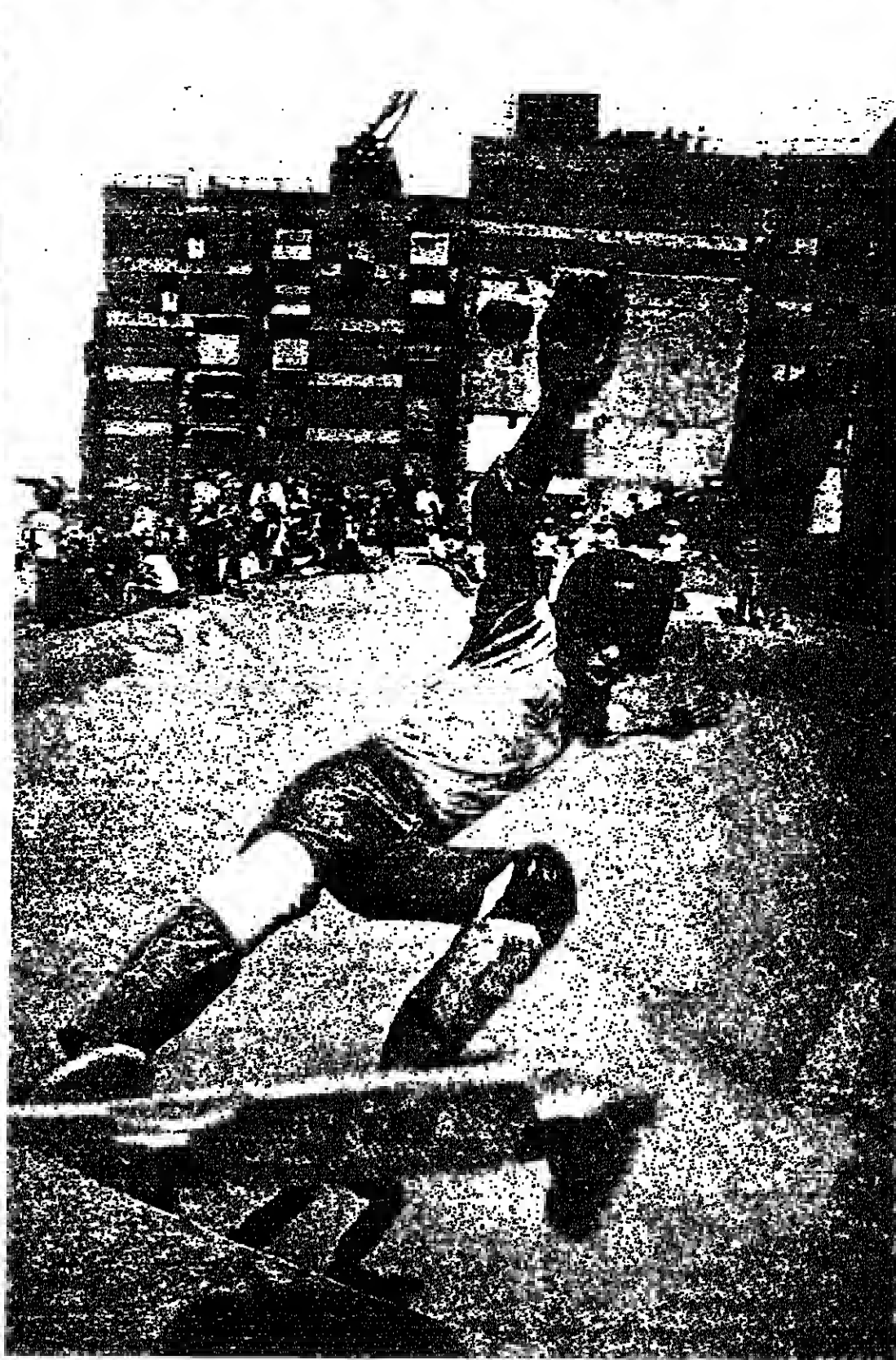
Look for a large, obstacle and pedestrian free surface with a gentle slope such as a vacant parking lot or school playground. The safest and best place to ride is in a skatepark.

BASIC BALANCE

Find your natural stance by assuming a boxing type pose. This self-defence position will cause you to naturally place your leading foot forward of your trailing foot.

STATIC BALANCE

1. Use some method to keep the board from rolling, such as placing it on a thick carpet or blocking the front and rear tires with a couple of 2 by 4 inch boards. (Never try to balance on a free-wheeling, motionless skateboard.)
2. Put your leading foot on the front of the deck keeping your toes behind the front wheel. Avoid placing your feet on the extreme ends of the board when first learning to ride.
3. Place your trailing foot on the deck in front of the rear wheels. Assume a relaxed position and stay centred over the board. (A comfortable stance always makes it easier to maintain your balance). This is called "Surfer Stance." It is the easiest learning position.
4. Get the feel of the board by rocking back and forth and from side-to-side. Flex the knees and waist, and work out until you feel comfortable on the deck.



A scene at Skate City in London shows the type of park built specially for skateboarding enthusiasts. The boy riding the rim of the bowl is wearing the mandatory safety gear—helmet, thick gloves, soft

shoes and elbow and knee pads—which is required in Western countries. Kids in the back exercise proper skateboarding etiquette by queuing for their turns in the concrete bowl.



There's more than one way to ride a skateboard, and these boys can prove it.



Girls also get into the act at Haya Arts Centre. Look out folks. She may be skating circles around you by mid spring.

ck of skateboarders needs no start signal to tell them to "go." It's always ready. They especially like skating at the top of the dip at the Haya Centre/Art building because the surface is very



of the Haya Arts Centre Nabill Sawalha holds a clay model of the "dip" he designed that will be in the centre of the skateboard park. The dip is under construction and expected to be finished in two weeks. "The dip" will allow skateboarders to zoom down ramps and perform a variety of tricks on its banked sides.

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

Line-up for Saturday's U.K. games

LDON, April 6 (R)—Roger Osborne, who scored the goal in last season's F.A. Cup final, is named in the vich squad of 14 for their First Division football match Leeds tomorrow. Osborne collapsed after scoring inst Arsenal at Wembley and injuries have since kept out of the team. But Ipswich will be short of striker J. Mariner, and the young central defender Terry cher. Leeds will be at full strength.

Wolverhampton, knocked out of the F.A. Cup semi- al by Arsenal last week and still needing a few points to ure their First Division future, will be unchanged for the t successive match for their visit to Manchester City. their hosts are plagued with sickness as well as injury. th African-born Colin Viljoen has damaged and ankle l goalkeeper Joe Corrigan (calf). Willie Donachie (el) and Paul Power (thigh) are all under treatment. gland winger Peter Barnes and Polish star Kazimierz yna have influenza though Deyna may still be fit to play.

West Bromwich Albion, still in eager pursuit of the gue leaders Liverpool, have three injury doubts for their me match against Everton, level with them on points but ving played five matches more. But Albion hope that all ee-Brendan Batson (groin) midfield goalscorer Tony own (back) and striker Ally Brown (knee)—will survive e fitness tests. Both Browns missed the 4-0 midweek tory over Manchester City. But they will be without Len nello in the midfield. He is serving a one-match sus- sion.

Brian Greenhoff, whose calf injury kept him out of the anchester United team which beat Liverpool in their played cup semifinal two nights ago, will not be fit for the tch at Norwich, United's cup final opponents. Arsenal, ay Steve Walters in place of the suspended left back mmy Nelson at Liverpool but David Prince, who missed today's match against Coventry, returns to the midfield place of Mark Heeley. Liam Brady's injured knee still eps him out.

South Africans may run in Boston Marathon

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, April 6 (AP)—Five South African runners are apparently entering the famous Boston Marathon later this month but fear of anti-apartheid demonstrations has made the subject top secret here. The Rand Daily Mail newspaper reported Wednesday that the five runners—Willie Farrell, Brian Chamberlain, Johnny Halberstadt, Bernard Rose and Kevin Shaw—will run in "one of the world's most famous marathon races during Easter." The Boston Marathon is scheduled for April 16, the day after Easter Sunday. But sports writer Sam Mirvis wasn't about to tell the Mail's readers just where the South Africans will be running. "We prefer not to divulge the name of the Marathon and the country in which it is being staged in case the South Africans meet with some difficulties," Mirvis wrote.

South Africa is banned from participating in virtually all international sporting events because of the government's policy of race segregation. Anti-apartheid demonstrations are not uncommon when South African athletes do participate in an international sporting competition. For example, a provincial rugby team from South Africa is currently on tour in France and Spain under a disguising name.

Swiss soccer championship results

GENEVA, April 6 (R)—Results of matches in the 21st round of the Swiss National Soccer League Championships played Wednesday night were: FC Basle one, Nordstem Basle one; Lausanne Sports zero, Young Boys Berne one; Sion two, Neuchatel Namax two; Chiasso one, St. Gallen zero; Servette Geneva zero, Grasshoppers Zurich zero; FC Zurich six, Chenois Geneva zero.

Will California fall apart in 1982?

By Daniel Nelson

LONDON—When Jupiter aligns with Mars and the Moon is in the Seventh House, the Age of Aquarius begins. Astrologers believe it will be a period of love and peace. But some scientists fear it could begin with a cataclysmic event—a major earthquake in southern California that could destroy Los Angeles.

A new presentation at the London Planetarium warns of the possibility of such a catastrophe.

The show, "Omens", looks at superstitious beliefs about planetary movements, and points out that in three years a rare alignment occurs: for the first time in 179 years all the planets in the solar system will be on the same side of the sun.

"Those who believe in the astrological powers of the stars and planets will read in that line-up a warning of a coming catastrophe," intones narrator John Ebdon, the Planetarium director and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

"They may be right—but for the wrong reason. A catastrophe may occur, and if it does, according to some scientists, the planets will be the culprits. In perfect alignment they will present the full might of their combined gravitational pull on the sun."

The alarm was sounded six years ago in a book called "The Jupiter Effect." Written by Dr. John Gribbin, a former member of the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy in Cambridge, and Dr. Stephen Plagemann, who was then working for the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Association, it argued that the unusual position of the planets in 1982 would trigger off a series of earthquakes and a major upheaval of the San Andreas Fault in California.

It is a "straw that broke the camel's back" theory, for its validity rests on the piling up of a whole series of conditions: The

In three years all the planets in the solar system will line up on the same side of the sun. Will the pull of their combined gravity cause a catastrophe on the planet Earth? The London Planetarium has mounted a special show to look at the possibility.

sun's activity will be at a peak, streams of charged particles will flow out past the planets and there will be a pronounced effect on the overall circulation and on weather patterns.

"Finally, the last link in the chain, movements of large masses of the atmosphere will agitate regions of geologic instability into life. There will be many earthquakes, large and small, around susceptible regions of the globe."

The U.S. Department of Geology looked into the claim when the book was published, as did several American Universities. But Dr. John Divine of the Department's earthquake studies section said, "We checked historical records and found no earthquake activity to correspond with past occurrences of this planetary alignment."

"We also looked at possible effects and decided that they were minor compared with the great stresses caused by movement of the continental plates. We took it seriously, but generally we have discounted the theory."

Dr. Gribbin admits they received "a thumbs down from the geological Establishment," but remains convinced of the correctness of the theory: "If I was writing the book now, I'd be more positive in some ways. There is more evidence that planets affect earth activity."

Even some who doubt the theory do not reject it outright. Dr. Peter Smith, reader in earth sciences at Britain's Open University, says he favours open debate on the subject and points out that there is a tendency in science "to ignore

fault is at its height.

"In any case, records show that there was activity at the time of the last alignment—just as there is now a steady build-up of sunspot activity, exactly as we forecast although at that time the generally accepted forecasts were for a peak in 1979."

He also admits to be getting increasingly excited as 1982 approaches. "But we are not ghoulies, hoping everyone will die. We'll find out who is right in a couple of years and if we are wrong we will breathe a sigh of relief."

"One thing I'm sure of—I won't be in California at that time."

FINANCIAL TIMES
NEWS-FEATURES

Australian oasis



One of the many new areas in the heart of Sydney provides a welcome oasis for city workers. (AP photo)

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YOUR DAILY
OROSCOPE
a Carroll Righter Institute

Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study every aspect of your plan-how best to improve it in the future. into arguments with others of power over some addition that you do not like.

(Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't make radical home, but improve conditions there instead. actual and all turns out well.

(May 21 to June 21) Important that you drive be careful of what you say and avoid trouble. use who can further your ambitions.

CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A good time vided you avoid heavy expenditures. Analyze in life and know where you are headed.

y 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid making any radical your lifestyle and this becomes a good period otact those whom you like and have a good newcomers for now.

Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You feel restricted in some do nothing about it now. Talk over important others, but take no action as yet. Enjoy social

Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get together with friends, y to change them to your liking. Being social ick to whatever is conservative. Avoid taking back home with you.

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be tactful in stating your wigs. Back bigwigs and gain their favor. Take relax.

ARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into a promist- tlet and forget a problem you can do little t. Making new contacts is wise. They can be l in your advancement.

JRN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Carry through with a y you have assumed without making any es. Do nothing that could harm the tranqui- enjoy at home. Show you are loyal.

US (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Leave partnership af- instead of making radical changes you have in a safe. Take part in a civic matter so you and e helped.

Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have work to do so y trip you want to take and keep out of trou- ch done. Forget any oew temptations that ou in the wrong direction.

REN BRIDGE

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A965 ♦ A1032
as proceeded:
North East
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NT Pass

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A982 ♦ KQ84
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JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAWRD
REELD
TRAISE
HISBUL

WHAT YOU MIGHT HOPE A PROFESSIONAL ORATOR WOULD DO WITH SOME SKILL WHEN HE PLAYS GOLF.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANKLE GROUP JERSEY FAMISH
Answer: May stand at the end of this alley—PINS

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"Here's your winnings from our gin rummy game last night—breakfast in bed!"

Peanuts



I GUESS IT'S WRONG ALWAYS TO BE WORRYING ABOUT TOMORROW

MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ONLY ABOUT TODAY...

NO, THAT'S GIVING UP...

I'M STILL HOPING THAT YESTERDAY WILL GET BETTER

Andy Capp



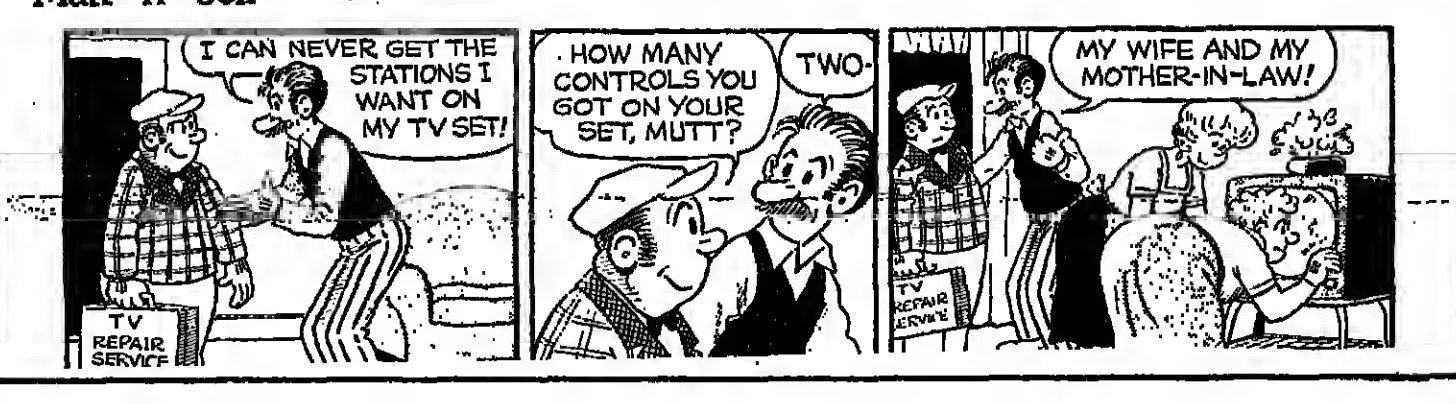
POOR LITTLE DEVIL I SUPPOSE I'VE BETTER GET 'EM OFF ME SAFE

ARE YOU THERE MISSUS? I'VE BROUGHT YOUR HUSBAND HOME

YOU WOULD!

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Mutt 'n' Jeff



I CAN NEVER GET THE STATIONS I WANT ON MY TV SET!

HOW MANY CONTROLS YOU GOT ON YOUR SET, MUTT?

TWO.

MY WIFE AND MY MOTHER-IN-LAW!

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THE Daily Crossword

by Martha J. DeWitt

ACROSS

1 Cod or May
5 Vidon
9 Pay phone
14 Flush
15 — marcia
16 Jeopardy
17 Guarantee
18 Glide
19 Maxm
20 Arless
23 Reports
24 Resentment
25 Conversa-
26 Russian
29 Sick color
32 Wrinkles

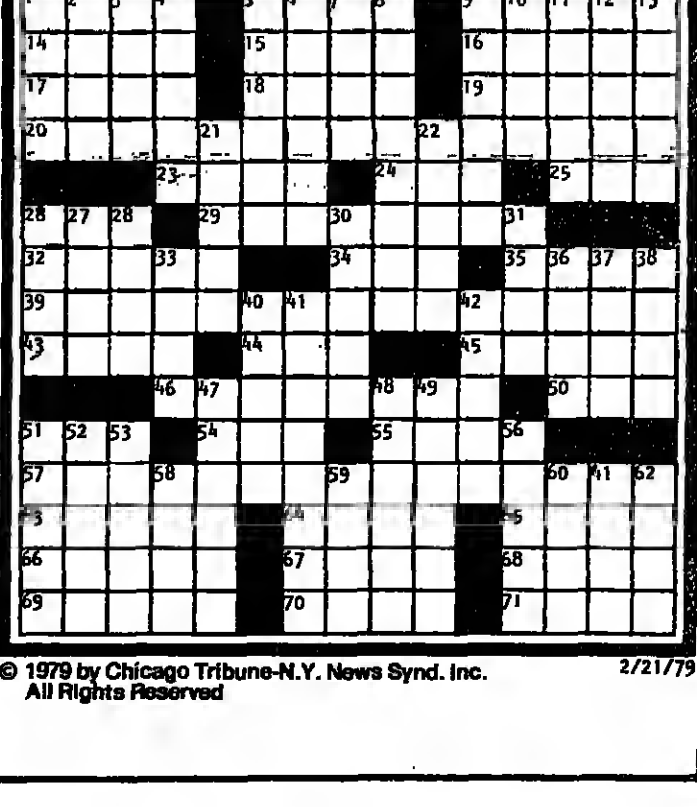
DOWN

1 Visayan
2 English
3 Writes
4 Witch of —
5 Slice of
6 Girl's name
7 Exclamation
8 Disciplina-
9 Voids
10 Mother of
11 Make a
12 Paper —
13 Pungs
21 Washington
34 Roman
35 Vegetable
39 Honesty
43 Ooze
44 Fixed
45 routine
46 Kind of
50 Sassafes
51 "Not —
54 Hospital
55 Adversaries
57 Honest

Yestarday's Puzzle Solved:

ARIES MAIN WAMP
TANGS ESAD ODD
ONE OF A KIND
MIX AND SLEET
SNOW ANIMATE
RAI GHOME EOB
STAIRS EVER MIA
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ALL SERD DIVING
BEE SMILE DAN
RESOUND LIDS
STAIRS EVEN CIT
HALF PIONEER
OAP AWA HESSE
EISE OEMS ENTIRE

27/21/79



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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

BBC RADIO

04:00 Newstalk
04:30 The Turn of the Screw
04:45 Financial News: Reflections
05:00 News Press Review
05:15 About Britain
05:30 Poetry and Music
05:45 The World Today
06:00 Newsday
06:30 What's new
07:00 News: News about Britain
07:15 From the Weekends
07:30 The Voice of the Violin
07:45 Network U.K.
08:00 News: Reflections
09:00 News: Press Review
09:15 World Today
09:30 Financial News: Look Ahead
09:45 Science to Action
10:15 About Britain
10:30 Matthew on Music
11:00 News: News about Britain
11:15 New Ideas: The Week in Wales
11:30 Through African Eyes
12:00 Radio Newnet
12:15 Jazz for the Asking
12:45 Sports Round-up

13:00 News: Commentary
13:15 Europe
13:30 Network U.K.
13:45 Classical Record Review
14:00 Sarah and Company
14:30 Command Performance
15:00 Radio Newnet
15:15 Saturday Special
16:00 News: Commentary
16:15 Sunday Special
17:00 News: Saturday Special
17:45 Sports Round-up
18:00 News: News about Britain
18:15 Radio Newnet
18:30 Play of the Week
19:30 Benay Green's Album Time
19:45 English Song
20:00 News: Commentary
20:15 People in Politics
20:30 Bestseller: Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde
21:15 The Book Programme
21:45 Moment Musical
22:00 News: Theatre Call
22:30 New Ideas: Reflections
23:45 Sports Round-up
23:00 News: Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

03:30 The Breakfast show: news on the hour and 28 min. after each hour
17:00 Weekend
18:00 Special English: news/ words and their stories
20:15 Music USA (Jazz)
21:00 Weekend
18:30 New York, New York

19:00 News and This Week
20:00 Special English: news/ words and their stories
20:15 Music USA (Jazz)
21:00 Weekend

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 5

5:30 Ours
5:45 Ours
6:00 Muhammad Ali
6:30 Cultural Film
7:10 Return to Peyton Place
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic Series
9:30 Arabic programme
10:15 Paper Chase
11:00 News in Arabic
11:20 Code R

CHANNEL 6

6:30 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:30 Comedy
9:10 The 19th Century
9:30 Cedar Tree
10:00 News in English
10:15 Sunday variety Show
11:20 Code R

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning Show
7:50 Easy Listening
8:00 Old favourites
8:30 News Bulletin
8:45 Sign off
9:00 Sign on and news headlines
9:03 Radiotheque
9:30 News summary
10:00 News Bulletin
10:30 Radiotheque
10:45 News bulletin
11:00 Sign off

14:30 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News summary
16:00 Easy listening
16:30 Old favourites
17:00 In concert
17:30 Radiotheque
18:00 News summary
18:03 Album review
18:30 News Bulletin
19:00 News Reports
19:30 Sign off

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS:

8:00 Beirut (MEA)
8:25 Muscat, Doha (RJ/GF)
9:00 Karachi, Dubai
9:15 Kuwait
10:00 Amman
10:15 Tehran
10:30 Beirut (MEA)
10:45 Baghdad
11:00 Kuwait
12:00 Riyadh (SDI)
12:15 Baghdad
12:30 Cairo
13:00 Bahrain (IA)
13:00 Beirut (MEA)
13:40 Amman, Athens, Beirut (KLM)
14:00 London (BA)

DEPARTURES:

5:40 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (LH)
7:30 Frankfurt
7:30 Amman
7:40 Beirut, Paris (AF)
8:00 Beirut
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
10:30 Baghdad
11:00 Kuwait
11:30 Vienna, Copenhagen
12:00 Paris
13:00 Cairo
13:00 Kuwait (KAC)
13:15 London
13:40 Riyadh (SDI)
19:00 Amman
20:00 Bahrain, Dubai (RJ/GF)
20:00 Baghdad (IA)
22:40 Rawalpindi (BA)

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French Cultural Centre... 37009
Goethe Institute... 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre... 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre... 34049
Hays Arts Centre... 65195
Hassan Youth City... 67181
Y.W.C.A... 41783
Y.W.M.C.A... 64251
Amman Municipal Library... 36111
University of Jordan Library... 65111
Cineland Museum... 36101
Folklore Museum... 36191

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Ambulance (government)... Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue... 238-527
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)... 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)... 27111-3
Police headquarters... 39141
Najdah roving patrol rescue police (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency... 21111, 37777
Airport information (ALLA)... 85205
Jordan Television... 71111
Radio, English Section... 74124
First aid, fire, police... 19
Fire headquarters... 22090

CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

Al Hama Theatre... Tel. 226-448
Al Sha'b Art Gallery... 238-527
American Centre... 552-362
Arab Cultural Centre... 333-727
Belgian Cultural Centre... 337-901
British Cultural Centre... 335-594
Deutch Democratic Republic Cultural Centre... 333-932
French Cultural Centre... 330-694
Kabkaba Theatre... 225-016
National Museum... 225-650
Soviet Cultural Centre... 334-003
Spanish Cultural Centre... 334-619
United Art Gallery... 334-619
Zaheriyah Public Library... 224-554
West German Cultural Institute... 224-554

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Chamber of Commerce... 118-339
Electric Power Co. (repair)... 223-887
Fire headquarters... 91
Information... 95697
Municipal water service... 113-500

Foreign Minister Sanjabi says Iran will never be used as base against USSR

PRAGUE, April 6 (R)—Iran's Foreign Minister Karim Sanjabi was quoted today as saying the new republic wanted good relations with the Soviet Union and would never allow itself to be used as a base against it. In an interview with the Czechoslovakian communist party daily Rude Pravo, he added that economic and commercial relations with the other communist countries would continue to develop.

Referring to the United States, Mr. Sanjabi said the U.S. administration had supported the policies of the Shah which had led to mass oppression by the people. "We hope that our political, economic, commercial and cultural relations with the U.S. will develop in the future on the basis of mutual respect," he said. During the Shah's rule, the western powers had a free hand in Iran, he added.

Iran "and could do as they wished," he added.

Maintaining its independence, Iran wanted direct and open relations with the whole world, including the West.

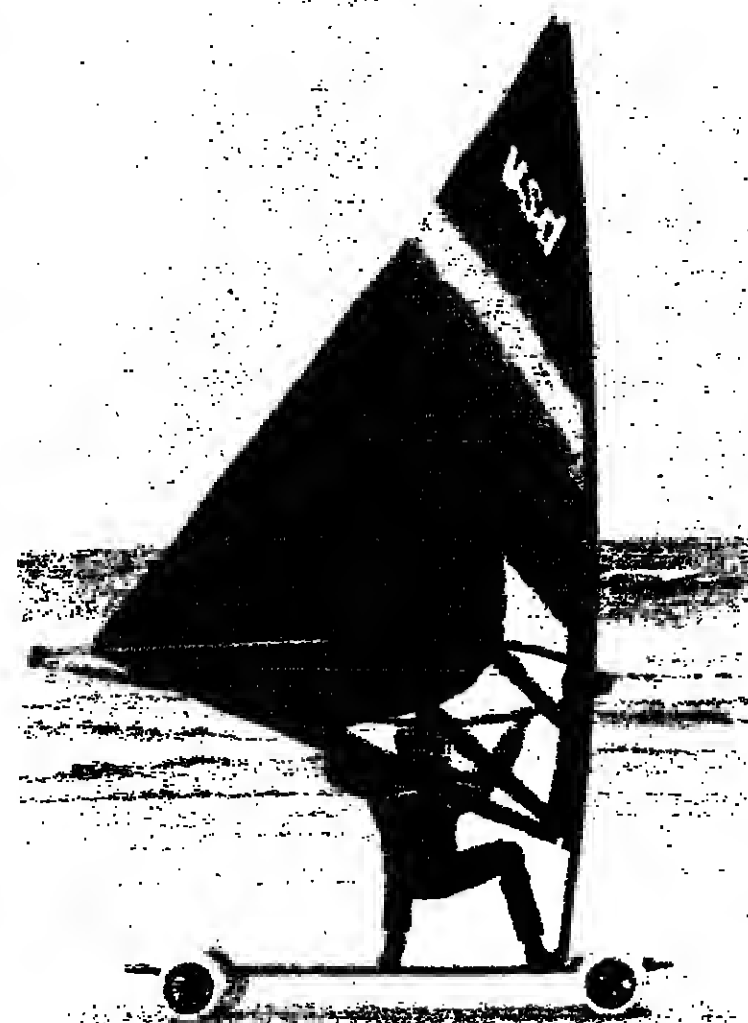
"We fully realize our geographical position in which our country borders the Soviet Union and on the other hand belongs in the sphere of the Persian Gulf which contains the biggest oil reserves in the world," Mr. Sanjabi said.

"It is for this reason that we want our relations with the Soviet Union to be good and sincere and we shall never allow our country to be used as a base against the Soviet Union," Mr. Sanjabi continued.

"We are a muslim country and we are interested in friendly and sincere relations with all countries in this area who are still oppressed by world imperialism."

On the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Mr. Sanjabi said his government was of the same opinion as the other Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"The treaty has deepened the rift between the Egyptian government and the other Arab countries and has made the solution of such a complex problem even more complicated," he said.



Super skateboard

Arnaud de Rosnay trains on the Biarritz beach in France with his speed sail, his own invention. With this machine, made up of a skateboard and a windsurf sail, he'll try to cross the Agadir-Dakar desert in North Africa. (Gamma photo)

Saboteurs bomb French nuclear factory

LA SEYNE-SUR-MER, France, April 6 (AP)—A sophisticated sabotage team, using three plastic charges, bombed an industrial plant early today where components for two experimental nuclear reactors for Iraq were under construction, French police said.

The 3 a.m. bombing caused several million dollars worth of damage and represented the first incidence of organized sabotage against France's nuclear energy development programme.

Police said the blasts, which they described as very powerful, blew out windows and much of the roof of the building in the nuclear division of Industrielles De Ga Méditerranée in this Mediterranean seaside town just outside of Toulon.

There was no official indication of damage to the nuclear-related materials inside the plant or of any potential danger of radiation leaks to area residents or to the environment as a result of the bombing. But informed sources said

several nuclear-related components were destroyed or severely damaged, including parts for the Iraqi project.

One was a metallic piece to contain atomic batteries, due to be shipped to Iraq in a few days, sources said.

A second lot of damaged materials included equipment to load nuclear fuel into a reactor, on order for a Belgian firm, the sources added.

Also damaged was a giant lid for a storage container for radioactive materials, ordered for a West German nuclear power plant at Kalkar, sources said.

French police and bomb squad specialists, carrying out their investigation in the strictest secrecy, said the bombing appeared to be the work of a well organized team.

By midday there was no claim of responsibility for the attack. The bombing came amid growing public demands on President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's government to halt France's nuclear

development programme as a result of the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant outside Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in the United States.

The Socialist Party, the nation's largest political organization, yesterday joined a variety of ecologists and leftist groups in calling for an immediate halt to the nuclear development programme.

Giscard d'Estaing's gov-

3 police executed in Iran

TEHRAN, April 6 (AP)—Iranian revolutionary tribunals executed three police officers by firing squad before dawn today and opened the trial of an air force general in a major revival of action against officials of the old regime.

The 4 a.m. executions in the central Iranian city of Isfahan and the opening of a new trial in Tehran followed the publication yesterday of a new decree permitting revolutionary courts to resume operations after a three-week hiatus.

Unofficial reports said several other trials were also under way today in Tehran. State radio said the Tehran trial of Major General Iraj Amiri-Afshar opened in early afternoon and that the verdict could be known by evening.

Those executed this morning in Isfahan included two men accused of interrogating or torturing suspects held by Savak and a policeman, condemned for killing an anti-Shah guerrilla.

The executions took place in the presence of a representative of the local prosecutor's office and clergymen. Revolutionary courts executed more than 60 people until Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini suspended their activities March 16.

World News Briefs

Qatar raises price of crude 17 per cent

BAHRAIN, April 6 (R)—Qatar has raised the price of its crude oil by more than 17 per cent, backdated to April 1, in a move which brings it into line with higher official OPEC prices and incorporates large surcharges, oil industry sources said yesterday. The sources said the price of Qatar's offshore Doha crude has been set at \$17.04 a barrel and that of offshore Hail crude at \$16.85 a barrel. The previous prices were \$14.56 for Doha and \$14.29 for Hail, which means rises of 17 and 17.9 per cent respectively for the two Qatar oils. Qatar is one of OPEC's smallest producers with an output of about 500,000 barrels a day.

Iran needs services of foreigners

BONN, April 6 (AP)—The principal spokesman for the revolutionary government says the government needs the services of foreigners for the development of the country now that the Shah has been deposed. In an interview with the newspaper Bild, Prime Minister Amir Etezzam also predicted the regime, headed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, will have restored order in the country within a few months. "We need the foreigners for development of the country," Mr. Etezzam said. "More foreigners are known for their hospitality. Therefore, foreigners must come here, as long as they are not against the revolution."

Senator Baker joins U.S. presidential race

DOVER, New Hampshire, April 6 (R)—Senator Republican Howard Baker joined the race for his party's 1980 presidential nomination. The 56-year old Tennessee moderate told a press conference yesterday, "I am a candidate for president." Senator Baker, the fourth nationally known Republican to declare his candidacy, what is expected to be a long and bitter battle between the conservative and moderate wings. Other Republicans who declared are former Texas governor John Connally, Illinois Congressman Phil Crane, and Senator Lowell Weicker of Connecticut. Like Mr. Baker, Mr. Weicker was a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee which investigated the Watergate scandal and helped drive Republican president Richard Nixon from the White House in 1974.

Bonn: Afghanis protest Soviet regime in Kabul

BONN, April 6 (AP)—A group of Afghan students took over the country's embassy today to protest the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul, police said. Officials said Afghan diplomats had been building, and police were trying to remove the students, among them the "General Union of Afghan Students Abroad." A spokesman told reporters the takeover was designed to draw attention to the "terror regime" in Kabul, which he said was "fully the influence of the Soviet Union."

China, Vietnam peace talks to start next week

PEKING, April 6 (R)—China said today it would start peace talks with Vietnam next week — providing "no further escalation" created by the Vietnamese side. "The New China News Agency" said Vietnam had been informed that a Chinese delegation, led by Foreign Minister Han Nian Long, planned to arrive in Hanoi on April 14. Among the problems which will be discussed in Hanoi is the alignment of the disputed frontier between the two countries.

'Time is ripe for big quakes in Japan, U.S.

PARIS, April 6 (R)—American and Japanese scientists said it could be ripe for big earthquakes in heavily-populated regions of their countries.

They based their fears on evidence of major seismic movement at regular intervals dating back for centuries in southern California and the industrial coastal area of Japan west of Tokyo.

The scientists were attending an international symposium on earthquake prediction yesterday organized by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Dr. Robert Wesson of the U.S. Geological Survey said conference substantial seismic disturbances occurred once every 160 years in southern California.

The last such movement, in the Los Angeles area, was in 1907, Dr. Wesson said. "So we are now within range of this event."

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Detroit searches for new markets

By Andrew Fisher

DETROIT—American motor executives are fixing their eyes eagerly on foreign markets these days in the hope that they will prove to be a more vigorous source of future profits than the U.S. itself.

Nor is it hard to see why, even though the major Detroit car-makers have long been established abroad. One key reason for the renewed stimulation of interest in doing business outside the U.S. is the belief that growth in the vast home market, where over 11 million new cars were sold last year, will be sluggish at best.

Hence the parade of company officials industriously searching out new foreign opportunities in Europe, Latin America, and Asia, and the efforts of national governments to woo these potential bringers of new investment and jobs.

Ford Motor Company, for instance, has raised the hopes of several European countries with its plan to expand car production in the 1980s, especially after the lukewarm response of Spain, where the company sited its last major new car plant.

Austria, France and Portugal are all vying for Ford's investment factories, and heads of government have taken a lively interest in the

progress of negotiations.

China, too, has now emerged as a market of exciting, if uncertain, potential and Detroit has not been slow to take an interest. American Motors, the smallest of the U.S. vehicle carmakers, has already signed an agreement under which the feasibility of making the famous four-wheel drive Jeep will be studied.

AMC is keen to build up world sales of the Jeep, following its recent success at home, and already produces the vehicle in South Korea, India, Pakistan, Australia, the Philippines and other Asian nations through subsidiaries or licence deals.

But AMC will clearly not have matters all its own way in the Chinese market. Both General Motors and Ford are looking hard at the possibilities of doing business with Peking in some form or other, although they are proceeding warily at this stage.

Only three years ago, said Mr. Philip Caldwell, Ford's vice-chairman and president, China had "nothing to suggest opportunities for a capitalist company like ours." Since his visit at that time, however, much had changed, he conceded at a recent meeting with the press. The Chinese were now talking of joint ventures, "which to us means joint ownership", and the realisation of

such arrangements could have results. "But if not," he warned, "the prospects are substantially less."

Hard-headed businessmen as they are, the Detroit motor executives clearly do not expect too much in the near future from China's unsteady drive to modernise her industry. Elsewhere, though, the picture seems a lot clearer, with rapid growth rates forecast for markets in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific generally.

These are in strong contrast to the relatively sluggish performance being predicted for the U.S. market, even though new car sales have been fairly strong so far this year. In February, total retail deliveries were more than seven per cent above the level for the same month of 1978, which was admittedly a poor one.

According to Mr. Caldwell of Ford, annual expansion of the U.S. car market up to 1987 is expected to be no more than two per cent. Yet outside the North American continent, it should be nearly double this at 3.7 per cent.

Estimates like these explain Ford's keen and much-publicised interest in further European operations and General Motors' desire to beef up its foreign business, principally by making a strong push into South America.

General Motors, (GM), the giant among giants in the U.S. motor industry, has been busy buying up the car and truck operations of the ailing Chrysler concern in Venezuela and Colombia, and also plans to boost its activities in Mexico.

In Europe, where its purchase of the British Vauxhall company in 1925 made it the first American motor group to move outside the U.S., it is also investigating avenues of expansion. Like Ford, it has been talking with the Austrians, although its aims are said to be limited to the establishment of an engine plant.

In Germany, where it bought up Adam Opel AG a few years after acquiring Vauxhall, GM's operations have been generating a solid return in what is often regarded as the world's toughest market.

The reason why Chrysler agreed to the South American sales to GM was a severe shortage of cash. Last year it lost as much as \$205 million after a 1977 profit of \$163 million, while General Motors earned a record \$3.5 billion in 1978, though it professed itself dissatisfied with profit margins—5.5 per cent against over ten per cent in the mid-1960s—and concerned about inflation.

By moving aggressively into the

With annual growth in the domestic market down to a predicted two per cent for the next eight years, the U.S. car manufacturers are increasingly looking to overseas markets from Latin America to China to provide further expansion.

South American continent, GM hopes to counter some of the looming problems on the home market, including the high cost of meeting fuel and pollution regulations, and to erode some of Ford's foreign leadership. For the profitability of its arch-rival's non-U.S. activities is superior to that of GM, which is the undisputed leader at home.

Thus GM is prepared to spend several hundred million dollars on expanding its business in Mexico, including new car assembly and engine manufacturing plants.

Although Ford sold more vehicles in Mexico last year with a total of 68,000, its 38 per cent growth rate was outstripped by GM's 50 per cent, which brought its figure up to 52,000 units.

Ford also leads GM in Venezuela, but the purchase of the Chrysler factories will double the latter's capacity of some 80,000 units. General Motors is discriminating about the South American motor scene, however,

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